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Contin

DAILY REPORT

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ORIGINAL

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

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VOP REPORTS ON FIGHTING, SHELLING IN BEIRUT AREA

JN131704Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpts] For the fifth consecutive day, the isolationist forces continue to escalate the fighting in the regions of 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Ash-Shiyyah, despite the intensified efforts to contain the clashes on all axes of fighting.

In the early hours of today the isolationists resumed their artillery shelling. Three shells fell in the area of At-Tariq al-Jadidah and many others in Ash-Shiyah, which prompted the Arab deterrent forces [words indistinct].

News reports received a short while ago from the area of the clashes in Ash-Shiyah say that the sound of artillery and heavy as well as light weapons is still clearly heard throughout the area and as far as the old road of Sidon.

Clashes in Ash-Shiyah intensifed this morning, especially when the isolationist forces resumed their concentrated heavy artillery and mortar shelling of the area and the Arab deterrent forces positions. This prompted the Arab deterrent forces to return the fire, using all sorts of weapons.

The Lebanese Army last night fought with the isolationists from its positions in Al-Fayyadiyah and shelled the nationalist regions and the positions of the Arab deterrent forces, again using the French-made rockets which recently arrived in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the isolationist forces radio has stopped its normal programs and has begun transmitting rancorous programs of mobilization aimed at further spreading the fire of battle. The radio reports have admitted that a sergeant in the Lebanese Army named Iliyya Abu 'Isa was killed at 'Ayn ar-Rummanah last night, which proves the Lebanese Army participation in the battles side by side with the isolationist forces.

Syrian military men said that last night they intercepted a radio call from Pierre al-Jumayyil, leader of the Phalangists, to his forces at 'Ayn ar-Rummanah. In his call he urged them to fight fiercely, remain steadfast and not lay down their arms. According to the call, the situation was expected to escalate at night.

VOP: U.S. PLANE CARRIES ARMS TO 'ISOLATIONISTS'

JN131835Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Informed sources at Beirut International Airport have said that a huge shipment of weapons, ammunition and spare parts has reached the isolationists from the United States. The sources added that this shipment arrived at Beirut airport aboard a U.S. plane from New York. It has been learned that the shipment contained 213 cartons of spare parts for tanks, M-16 guns and a large quantity of ammunition, totaling more than 35 tons. Two isolationist officers, George and Tanios, received these cartons and quickly transferred them from the airport to the areas controlled by the isolationists.

Reliable information received from the Juniyah region said that large numbers of isolationist troops arrived at the Juniyah port yesterday and were immediately transported to the various axes of fighting at 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, An-Nasiryah, As-Sayfi and At-Tabaris. The reports add that the isolationist front has transferred about 1,000 members of its forces in the south, with all their weapons and vehicles, by sea to Juniyah. These forces are under the command of the so-called Sa'd Haddad.

'ARAFAT CHAIRS PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

JN1315315Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee held a meeting in Beirut this morning under brother Abu 'Ammar. During the meeting, the committee discussed the events in Lebanon and the developments in the current situation on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DELEGATION MEETS WITH AL-HUSS

JN132112Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 13 April--A PLO Executive Committee delegation met this evening with Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. The delegation included PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Faruq Qaddumi, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashahshibi, 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, Talal Naji and Habi Qahwaji, all members of the Executive Committee.

At the end of the 90-minute meeting, Abu Mayzar said that the Executive Committee delegation met with Dr al-Huss today and exchanged views with him on the current circumstances and on their profound faith in the common destiny and struggle in confronting the common enemy of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

Abu Mayzar added: The Palestinian command's delegation discussed with Dr al-Huss the situation in southern Lebanon. They agreed that the main challenge facing the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples at this stage is the Zionist occupation of the south and the need to end this occupation and restore Lebanese sovereignty over the south.

Abu Mayzar further said that they agreed on all matters requiring joint cooperation to achieve the basic and central mission, namely, ending the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon.

Abu Mayzar said that the delegation explained the circumstances of the Palestinian issue at this stage and through Dr al-Huss became aware of Lebanon's concern for the Palestinian issue and people and for the Palestinian people's right to return to their land, to self-determination on their national soil and to establish their independent state in Palestine. The delegation stressed that the Palestinian revolution is concerned about Lebanon's sovereignty and integrity as much as it is about the Palestine issue. The Palestinian people are passing through temporary circumstances and will not accept anything other than Palestine for their homeland. We are quite confident, Abu Mayzar said, that the peoples of our Arab nation, above all the Lebanese people, will be a help in the struggle for the return to Palestine.

'ARAFAT INTERVIEWED ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES

LD141127Y Paris LE FIGARO in French 13 Apr 78 p 14 LD

[Paul-Marie de la Gorce and Jorg Stocklin undated interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at unspecified place]

[Text] Question: Mr Yasir 'Arafat, what is your assessment of the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon?

Answer: We held out for 8 days. We regard that as a victory, especially in the eyes of our people and the Arab people as a whole.

The southern Lebanon war brought us an influx of arms and volunteers (more than 3,000) and led some Israeli politicians, like Uri Avnery, to question their government: Avnery said to Begin, "What have you done? You have boosted the PLO's prestige and Arab morale."

Question: But what about the loss of southern Lebanon?

Answer: A victory cannot be measured by territory lost or gained. Napoleon spread his conquests as far as Moscow but was repelled by Russian guerrillas. The same will happen to Israel.

Question: If the Israeli army withdraws from southern Lebanon, will the fedayeen follow and try to regain their positions?

Answer: We are bound by an agreement with the Lebanese State on this matter--the Cairo Agreement. Therefore, this question concerns the PLO and President Ilyas Sarkis. There must be no interference in this field. If the UN forces secure an Israeli withdrawal--which I doubt very much--the situation will become clearer and discussion will be possible.

Question: What is the situation in the Middle East on this diplomatic level?

Answer: Carter is now in an embarrassing situation. The United States, via Cyrus Vance, gave the Israelis 48 hours in which to complete the invasion of southern Lebanon, and the United States was subsequently forced to vote for Resolution 425 demanding the Israeli withdrawal.

As-Sadat is also at an impasse at the moment. When he went to Jerusalem, he said "no more war," and then the Israelis attacked southern Lebanon. I must point out that I, Yasir 'Arafat, did not place As-Sadat in this impasse; Menahem Begin did. As-Sadat gave everything and got nothing in return, and Begin now says that Israel no longer intends to seek recognition from its neighbors.

Question: Do you intend to restore normal relations with the Egyptian Government?

Answer: If, for example, the Egyptian prime minister or foreign minister "recognized or declared"--I must watch what I say--that As-Sadat's initiative has failed, it could change our relations. Remember that the most recent inter-Arab meetings, the latest league session in Cairo and the "steadfastness front" conference in Damascus all reaffirmed the PLO's claims and rights in full. Having said that, convening an Arab summit still poses many problems.

Question: Were you disappointed by the attitude of the "steadfastness front" Arab states, which did not intervene to support you during the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon?

Answer: If war broke out again, I am sure that these countries would intervene. I must point out at this point that Arab potential must not be ignored or seen from a superficial and even colonialist viewpoint. For a long time, the Zionists claimed that their "quality" had the upper hand over "Arab quantity." The October 1973 war considerably modified that judgement. It made the Israelis stop and think and led President Katzir to reveal that the Jewish state possessed nuclear weapons.

Scientific and technical progress and the scope of progress in education in the Arab world are indisputable facts. We have the manpower and the oil and money too.

Question: Is a country like Saudi Arabia prepared to use oil as a weapon to help the Palestinians?

Answer: Yes, I think the Saudi Arabians would use it, as they did in 1973. You see, that is further proof that you must not disregard the extent to which the Palestinian situation weighs on Arab consciences. The Arabs cannot afford to treat us like red Indians as the West would like. Even the Lebanese front leaders (coalition of conservative Christian parties) would not follow their views to their logical conclusion in this respect. Remember that we are the only revolution in the world in the paradoxical situation of having no passports and no country. And yet, after 14 years, the PLO is a full member of the Arab League, the Conference of Nonalined Countries and the Islamic Conference and has observer status at the OAU and the United Nations.

Our problem is an unusual one. The West must understand this. Begin claims to have historical rights to Palestinian territory after '2,000 years of wandering,' as he puts it. Do I, as a Palestinian, not have a right to return to Palestine after 30 years of exile?

ISRAEL ALLEGEDLY FORGED FATAH IDENTITY CARDS

JN0909l4Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 9 April--The military security organ of the Palestinian national liberation movement (Fatah) has issued a circular to all its units instructing them to number the identity cards issued by the movement, after warning of the existence of forged identity cards attributed to the movement.

This was reported in today's issue of the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN in a dispatch from Beirut. The paper says that the circular was issued following information received that the Israeli enemy has forged a large number of Fatah identity cards in order to carry out special operations and assassinations of certain leaders of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese **Nationalist Movement.**

ARAB INFORMATION INSTITUTE DIRECTOR ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI

LD080734Y Tripoli JANA in English 1523 GMT 8 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, April 7 JANA--Wafiq al-Tabi, the director of the National Institute of Arab Information, arrived in Tripoli last night to participate in the work of the International Conference for Development and Cooperation which is due to start in Tripoli next Sunday. He was met at the airport by a representative of the Bureau of External Liaison of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress. Mr Wafiq al-Tabi made a statement to JANA in which he praised the role of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in the spreading of information about the causes of liberation. He said that the holding of the International Conference for Development and Cooperation in the Jamahiriyah has deep meaning and an international dimension reflecting the role assumed by the Jamahiriyah, at this stage, on the clear basis of the principles and objectives laid down by the Fatah revolution since its inception. Mr Micola Stevenson and Mr Micky Bit Edib, two economics experts at the UN also arrived in Tripoli yesterday in order to participate in the conference.

BAHRAIN

AMIR RECEIVES YAR PRIME MINISTER AL-GHANI

JN131910Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 13 April--His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, today received Mr 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, member of the YAR Command Council and YAR prime minister, who is currently visiting Bahrain. The GULF NEWS AGENCY has learned that the YAR prime minister conveyed to his highness a letter from Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, YAR Command Council chairman and commander in chief of the YAR armed forces, dealing with bilateral relations and the current Arab situation.

The meeting was attended by Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

Talks Held

JN131100Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpts] Manama, 13 April--A meeting was held here today between the Bahraini and Yemeni sides. The Bahraini side was headed by Prime Minister High Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, and the Yemeni side was headed by Prime Minister and Command Council Member 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani.

The GULF NEWS AGENCY has learned that the conferees discussed the fraternal relations existing between the two countries and the means to develop them in various fields. They also reviewed the current Arab issues, the joint action aimed at restoring Arab solidarity to its previous status, mending the Arab rift and liberating the occupied Arab territories.

Amir of Bagrain His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah is due to receive the YAR prime minister and the members of his accompanying delegation this afternoon.

KUWAIT

HEALTH COOPERATION TALKS HELD WITH POLISH MINISTER

JN132010Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1920 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 13 April--The final round of talks between Kuwaiti Health Minister 'Abd ar-Rahman al-'Awadi and his Polish counterpart, Marian Sliwinski, was held in Kuwait today. The two sides agreed on cooperation in all fields of health, including having Polish doctors and medical teams come and work at the Kuwaiti hospitals, training some Kuwaitit doctors and technicians in Polish institutions, and treating some Kuwaiti patients in Polish hospitals.

The Kuwaiti health minister accepted an invitation from the Polish minister to visit Poland. The date will be fixed later. The Polish minister will leave Kuwait for home tomorrow.

QATAR

STATEMENT ISSUED ON YAR MINISTER'S VISIT

NC131530Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1310 GMT 13 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Doha, 13 April--The State of Qatar and the YAR have condemned the barbaric Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon, which was aimed at occupying more Arab territory and attempting to exterminate the Palestinian people.

The two states denounced Israel's continued usurpation of the Arab territories, which indicates that Israel insists on realizing its expansionist ambitions and on adopting hostile stands in violation of international law and the UN Charter and resolutions.

This was announced in a press statement issued here this evening on the visit of YAR Command Council Member and Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani to the State of Qatar. The visit ended today.

The two states affirmed their complete faith that Arab solidarity is the most important force for regaining the usurped Arab territories and retrieving the usurped rights of the Palestinian Arab people. The two states declared their full support for the current Arab efforts to convene an Arab summit conference which would be attended by all the Arab states to reunite the ranks of the Arab nation and complete its joint action. The two states lauded the efforts which Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri is exerting in this regard.

The two states expressed satisfaction with the continuous development of the relations between the State of Qatar and the YAR for the welfare and in the interests of their peoples. They stressed their wish to increase the fruitful and positive cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

SAUDI ARABIA

DEFENSE MINISTER RETURNS FROM TEHERAN VISIT

JN131450Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Dhahran, 13 April--His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, defense and aviation minister, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Dhahran this afternoon at the conclusion of a 3-day official visit to Iran.

YEMEN--PDRY

IRAQI NAVAL COMMANDER VISITING ADEN HARBOR

JN121500Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1452 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Aden, 12 April--PDRY Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has praised the developing relations between Iraq and PDRY. At a meeting here today with the commander of the Iraqi military naval formation currently visiting Aden harbor, he affirmed the necessity of consolidating the fraternal relations existing between Iraq and the PDRY, and the importance of an exchange of visits among the officers and men of the Arab naval forces. The meeting was attended by the Iraqi ambassador to the PDRY.

YEMEN--YAR

SAUDI MILITARY DELEGATION CONCLUDES 4-DAY VISIT

JN131043Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1012 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 13 April--The Saudi military delegation led by Lt Gen 'Ali al-Qayyani left San'a' for home today at the end of a 4-day visit to the Yemen Arab Republic. During the visit, the members of the military delegation met with Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, Command Council chairman, and held talks with YAR officials on military coordination between the two countries.

GHALI SPEAKS TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

NC131632Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 13 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 April--The minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, has reaffirmed that the Egyptian diplomatic campaign following President Anwar as-Sadat's historic initiative is based on the adoption of sound methods to solve the Middle East crisis through negotiations and more negotiations.

Speaking at today's joint meeting of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations, Arab Affairs and National Security committees, Dr Ghali explained this by saying that the new character that Egyptian diplomacy acquired after the initiative means that war is ruled out as a means of settling the dispute in the area.

He confirmed that Egypt welcomes an Arab summit conference, which is likely to convene in the next few weeks. Dr Ghali welcomed the current diplomatic efforts by Jordan and the Arab solidarity committee, under the chairmanship of Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, to prepare a suitable atmosphere for holding an Arab summit conference.

Dr Ghali referred to the immediate Egyptian diplomatic move during the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, which led to the UN Security Council resolution condemning the Israeli aggression, demanding that Israel withdraw from southern Lebanon and dispatching UN emergency forces to maintain peace there. He said that this Egyptian diplomatic move foiled the Israeli attempts to close the PLO offices in the world capitals.

Dr Ghali said that the UN General Assembly is expected to hold a special session to discuss the costs incurred by the United Nations in maintaining the UN emergency forces. He added that this session will provide an opportunity for intense Egyptian and Arab diplomatic activity to expose the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon.

In his brief statement, Dr Ghali discussed the Egyptian diplomatic campaign plan in the Arab, African, Islamic and nonalined arenas and Egypt's relations with the two superpowers. Dr Ghali said that this diplomatic campaign is based on three important factors: the importance of diplomatic action on bilateral and multilateral levels, the importance of an information campaign on the regional and international levels and interest in the scientific analysis of international affairs so that Egypt can benefit from the information and diplomatic campaigns on sound scientific grounds, uninfluenced by emotional feelings.

Concerning Arab affairs, the minister of state for foreign affairs stressed that despite what has been written in the press about Egypt's neutrality, Egypt belongs to the Arab world, that there is no future for Egypt without the Arab nation and that the main key to solving the Middle East problem is solving the Palestinian problem. Dr Ghali explained that one of the aims of Egyptian diplomacy is to keep open the channels of contact with the PLO. He said that despite the fact that the PLO has joined the rejectionist front, it participated in the meetings of the Arab League Council and that the PLO executive committee has declared that it will participate in the projected Arab summit conference any time and any place. Consequently, he said, contacts are continuing with the PLO in order to find a solution to the Palestinian problem.

Dr Ghali referred to the recent EEC decision supporting the international stand on Israel's aggression against southern Lebanon and on the rights of the Palestinian people. He said that the Danish ambassador to Egypt sent a copy of this decision to the foreign minister on 11 April and that this shows the EEC interest in Egyptian diplomatic activities in defense of the Palestinian people and Lebanon.

Dr Ghali said that the 79th session of the Arab League Council, which was held recently, was an important session because it decided to hold an Arab summit conference and issued important decisions to hold the conference, to form an Arab solidarity committee to prepare a suitable atmosphere for holding it and to continue to support the PLO.

Dr Ghali emphasized that the Arab disputes are exaggerated and that they are almost a natural phenomenon in Arab relations. He said that there were disputes in the past and there will be disputes in the future, that this is normal in Arab relations and that what is important is that a system be devised to settle these disputes peacefully within an Arab framework and without foreign intervention. The minister of state for foreign affairs urged everyone not to exaggerate the size of these disputes and not to divide the Arab world into groups. He warned against allowing these disputes to turn into a cold war.

Concerning Africa, Dr Ghali affirmed that Egyptian and Arab diplomacy is important to Afro-Arab cooperation. He pointed out that the first Afro-Arab summit conference, held in Cairo a year ago, resulted in the establishment of several new joint Arab League-OAU organizations to strengthen Afro-Arab cooperation, which is one of the aims of Egyptian diplomacy. Dr Ghali said that Egyptian diplomacy is playing a basic role in strengthening this cooperation. He added that Egypt participated in the meeting of the Liberation Committee in Tripoli last May and also participated in the meetings of the Council of OAU Foreign Ministers last February.

Dr Ghali pointed out that Egypt is now preparing for the conference of African foreign ministers which will be held in Khartoum in July to prepare for the African summit conference, which will also be held in the Sudanese capital later in the same month.

Dr Ghali stressed that the basic aim of Egyptian diplomacy in Africa is to settle African disputes by peaceful methods within the OAU framework. In this regard, he pointed out that Egyptian diplomacy played an important role in the conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia and that this role led to the adoption of positive steps including the withdrawal of the Somali forces from the region of French Somalia.

Dr Ghali said that Egyptian diplomacy is closely following the steps to liquidate colonialism in Rhodesia and racial discrimination in the southern part of the continent. In this way Egypt will confirm to African public opinion and the Third World that despite its responsibilities and despite the Middle East crisis, Egypt is interested in African policies and in the joint African action for bolstering nonalinement in Africa.

Concerning Egyptian diplomatic activity in the field of nonalinement, Dr Ghali said that a high-level Egyptian delegation will participate in the meetings of the Coordination Bureau of the nonalined states which will begin on 1 May and that a similar delegation will participate in the nonalined conference to be held in Belgrade in June.

He pointed out in this regard that he recently delivered letters from President Anwar as-Sadat to Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito and to the prime ministers of India and Sri Lanka.

Dr Ghali said that in view of Egypt's interest in international issues, a high-level Egyptian delegation will participate in the UN General Assembly session in June which will discuss the question of disarmament. Dr Ghali explained that huge sums are being spent on arms in the world, that it is in the interest of the Third World states to redirect these funds to development and that disarmament will help insure a stable peace in the Middle East.

He then explained the Egyptian diplomatic activity on the Islamic level. He said that a delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister for Social Development Dr Muhammad Hafiz Ghanim will participate in the Islamic Conference to be held in Dakar in a few days. He pointed out that the Islamic Conference will discuss a plan on setting up a fund for the support of Jerusalem. Dr Ghali explained that there was a clear reference to the importance of Islamic cooperation in the joint statement issued on the occasion of Afgan President Mohammad Daud's recent visit to Egypt.

Concerning Egypt's relations with the two superpowers, the minister of state for foreign affairs said that Egypt's diplomatic policy toward the two superpowers is one of nonalinement, aimed at establishing friendly relations with the American giant and the Soviet giant. Dr Ghali said that Egypt seeks to improve its relations with the Soviet Union and strengthen its relations with the United States while maintaining its policy of nonalinement. He added that attempts have actually been made to strengthen the policy of nonalinement and improve relations with the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc and with the United States and the West.

Committees Condemn Israel

NC1317452 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1616 GMT 13 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 April--The People's Assembly Foreign Affairs, Arab Affairs and National Security committees have condemned Israel for using internationally banned weapons during its aggression against southern Lebanon. In a statement released today, the committees described the Israeli aggression as part of a premeditated plan to serve Israel's expansionist policy, to perpetrate genocide against the Palestinian people and to crush the PLO, which has been recognized as legitimate by the international community and the United Nations.

The committees expressed extreme concern because immediate implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, which calls on Israel to immediately withdraw from southern Lebanon, has been impossible. The committees invited the United States to play a more positive role in order to bring about this immediate withdrawal.

In the statement the committees pointed out that they are waiting to see what measures the United States will take to implement the agreement it concluded with Israel in 1952--an agreement which forbids Israel to use U.S. weapons in any aggression and confines the use of these weapons to self-defense.

The committees supported Egypt's diplomatic moves to consolidate Arab solidarity and encourage the efforts being exerted to clear the inter-Arab atmosphere, noting the efforts being exerted in this respect by the Arab solidarity committee chaired by Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri.

The committees issued their statement at the conclusion of the meeting which was convened under the chairmanship of Dr Jamal al-'Utayfi, People's Assembly deputy speaker and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and Minister of State for People's Assembly Affairs Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din.

Assembly Committees' Discussion

NC132036Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 13 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 April--Important discussions took place today after Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali delivered his statement on Egypt's diplomatic campaign at the joint meeting of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations, Arab Affairs and National Security committees under the chairmanship of assembly Deputy Speaker Dr Jamal al-'Utayfi.

First, Dr al-'Utayfi pointed out that the queries which had been submitted earlier on Israel's aggression against southern Lebanon were answered by Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil in the statement he made at a previous session of the People's Assembly, adding that the foreign minister's statement has been submitted to the joint committees so that a report can be prepared.

Dr al-'Utayfi also noted the remarks made at the People's Assembly yesterday about Israel's use of banned weapons in Lebanon and about the U.S. protest against Israel for having violated the U.S.-Israeli agreement signed in 1952, an agreement which confines the use of these weapons solely to defensive purposes.

Dr al-'Utayfi explained that the dominant themes at today's meeting were the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and the status of the peace talks. These topics were discussed in connection with the Israeli defense minister's recent visit to Cairo, upcoming moves in response to U.S. and Soviet attitudes, the statement issued by the EEC states and press reports that the Egyptian UN chief delegate, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, has lodged a complaint about the Sinai oil exploitation by Israel.

After Dr Ghali delivered his statement, Dr al-'Utayfi spoke. He said that the members want to be reassured about the results of Weizman's recent talks in Cairo and Egypt's attitude toward the peace discussions. Dr al-'Utayfi noted a report published in TIME magazine to the effect that Egypt is inclined to allow some settlements and two airports--to be used for civilian purposes--to stay. Asked about the report in the U.S. magazine, Dr Ghali said: It is not the intention of the Foreign Ministry or the government to permit any settlements or airports to stay. On the contrary, the Foreign Ministry emphasizes the need for total withdrawal from all of Egyptian territory and the territories that were occupied after 5 June 1967. Consequently, we will not accept any Israeli presence--direct or indirect.

Concerning the results of Weizman's recent discussions in Cairo, the minister of state for foreign affairs explained that the discussions have not produced any results and that contacts are continuing to give momentum to the negotiating process. Both direct and indirect contacts are involved, such as the U.S. or any other diplomatic initiative, such as the Romanian initiative. He said: Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu is now in the United States and he is playing an important role. We welcome any mediation to resolve the conflict peacefully.

Concerning the U.S. sale of F-5 aircraft to Egypt, Dr Ghali made it clear that the political value of this deal is greater than its military value. This deal indicates that a form of pressure is being applied to Israel, for now the United States is providing these weapons. Perhaps it will provide other weapons in the future, as long as this policy exists.

Dr Layla Takla, deputy chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, then asked for action to restore strong relations with the Soviet Union in order to achieve an overall settlement of the Middle East issue. She noted that the United States will not sacrifice its relations with the Soviet Union for the sake of any issue or any state. Dr Takla asked that an end to the direct negotiations with Israel be announced because it appears that Israel entertains aggressive intentions and does not think of peace. She also asked that the positive results of the peace initiative be exploited, noting that the most important of these results are Israel's exposure before the world and the unveiling of its intentions, the intensified information campaign about the Arab cause and the emergence of world public opinion supporting this cause and the appearance of the first signs of slight differences between the United States and Israel over some interpretations.

In her speech, Dr Takla emphasized the need to heal the inter-Arab rift and restore Arab solidarity in order to confirm the basic fact that the Arabs are strengthened by Egypt and that Egypt is strengthened by the Arabs.

Dr Ghali commented by saying that he has asked the Soviet Union to halt its propaganda campaigns, because this action will mark the first step toward the improvement of Egyptian-Soviet relations. He said: We do not want to exaggerate in portraying the bad relations between ourselves and the Soviet Union, because there are continuing cultural and diplomatic relations and there is no crisis between us. The relations do exist, but it is a fact that they are not good, and this is another matter.

In connection with the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, he explained that direct and indirect contacts are underway with Israel to achieve a peaceful solution to this conflict and these contacts will continue until the political command decides that we have attempted the impossible and that there is no solution. He said: We are still at the beginning and it is impossible for a problem which has lasted 30 years to be solved in a matter of days.

Member Tawfiq 'Abduh Isma'il--centrist--then spoke. He demanded that Egypt again make use of the other ways to achieve a final solution to the Middle East problem, and not just be contented with using only peaceful ways.

In response, Dr Ghali explained that Egypt is pursuing the peaceful courses leading to the solution of the issue only at this stage, and consequently Egypt retains the right to use force.

Member Mumtaz Nassar--independent--wondered about the position of the PLO and whether there is real U.S. pressure on Israel, as was applied in 1956.

Dr Ghali answered by explaining that there has been a change in the position of the PLO, indicated by the PLO participation in the Arab League sessions and the fact it has welcomed the convening of an Arab summit conference. He affirmed that contacts are continuing with the PLO.

Concerning U.S. pressure, the minister of state for foreign affairs explained that there has been a change in the U.S. position and that U.S. pressure is being applied to Israel, noting that some reports indicate that this pressure will increase. He said that the United States put pressure on Israel in 1956 3 months after that aggression. However, we are now asking for pressure to be applied after well over 10 years.

Dr Ghali replied to a question asked by Mr Mahmud al-Qadi--independent--about the importance of Arab solidarity at this juncture. He said: There have been inter-Arab differences for some years and the differences concern the means which should be used to resolve the issue. Dr Ghali added that Egypt has not said that direct negotiations are the way to the solution of the problem, but these negotiations are preparatory measures which lay the groundwork for the convening of the Geneva conference.

Minister of State for People's Assembly Affairs Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din then spoke. He made it clear that the U.S. position has changed in the wake of President as-Sadat's initiative, which was directed to the whole world, not to Israel alone, and which has proved that Egypt wants a just peace. Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din pointed to current reports in U.S. newspapers which reflect a completely new position, particularly as far as Egypt and President as-Sadat are concerned. He also pointed to the U.S. differences with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin on the interpretation of Resolution 242.

He said that there is a specific tilt in the U.S. position toward the Egyptian position and that during his recent visit to the United States he personally felt a tangible change in the U.S. position. He added that the United States can put pressure on Israel, as has been illustrated by the Security Council resolution on Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

He said that we should not forget to comment on Syria's defeatist attitude toward the occupation of southern Lebanon: Syria stood behind the Litani River saying that if Israel crossed the river it would intervene. However, Israel had not been thinking of crossing the Litani.

Concerning the U.S. planes deal with Egypt, Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din noted that supplying Egypt with U.S. weapons signifies a response to and sympathy with the rights of the Arabs. Furthermore, presenting the planes deal with Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel to Congress as a single deal supports this conclusion, which, politically speaking, means that for the first time the United States has permitted Egypt to be supplied with U.S. arms.

Regarding the position of the opposition parties in Israel, Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din said that Shim'on Peres, leader of the Israeli Labor Party, affirmed at the Socialist International conference recently held in Vienna that there is a slight difference between the opposition and the Likud ruling bloc. He emphasized that the presence of Menahem Begin at the head of the Israeli Government is an obstacle on the way to peace.

Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din noted that Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky had told him "that the presence of a Labor Party government in Israel will provide a stronger and quicker means for achieving peace in the area." In conclusion, Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din said that the October 1973 war paved the way to the historic peace initiative and that it is imperative for popular diplomacy to play a more effective role in the domain of Arab solidarity.

LETTER TO UN CALLS ISRAELI OIL ACTIVITIES ILLEGAL

NC131937Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1721 GMT 13 Apr 78 NC

[Text] United Nations, 13 April--The Arab Republic of Egypt has condemned Israel's violation of Egypt's territorial integrity and its sovereignty over its natural resources by carrying out intensive research to explore and exploit petroleum in the ground and offshore areas inside the occupied Egyptian territory. Egypt stressed that these illegitimate activities by Israel inside occupied Egyptian territory are a violation of internal [as received] law and will have serious consequences.

This is contained in a letter Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil sent to UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim. Egypt's permament UN delegate, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, delivered the letter to Waldheim's assistant Brian Urquhart. The Egyptian delegate demanded that the letter be circulated as an official UN document.

The text of the letter Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil sent to Dr Kurt Waldheim follows:

I have the honor to draw your attention to the dangerous situation and serious consequences which will result from the illegitimate activities that Israel is carrying out in the occupied Egyptian territory in violation of Egypt's territorial integrity and its permanent sovereignty over its natural resources.

Israel has recently begun to carry out intensive research to explore and exploit petroleum by prospecting on land and in offshore areas inside the occupied Egyptian territory. These activities are considered a violation of internal law. The 1907 Hague Agreement, which is internationally recognized, is an interpretation of the international law on this subject, and its purpose is to place restrictions and special commitments on occupying states. Articles 53 and 55 of the Hague Agreement, which have been officially interpreted and which have received support through international practice, are very clear on this matter.

Israel has the right to benefit only from immovable property in the occupied Egyptian territory. This does not include the right to develop the oil fields. Moreover, the rules of international law clearly prevent the exploitation of the oil resources in the interest of the Israeli economy or the marketing of the petroleum for commercial purposes. Likewise, it is considered a serious violation of international law if an occupying state grants a concession for the development of oilfields.

It is a fact that the Israeli authorities receive aid and cooperation from foreign oil companies. Egypt regards this as a very serious matter. The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt wishes to note that the sole duty of all states is to submit to these rules of international law. In this regard, it also notes that the 1949 Geneva treaty on the protection of civilians in time of war, which stipulates in its first article the protection of the rights of inhabitants of occupied territories, is considered a common pledge by all parties to the treaty to respect and emphasize the respect of the treaty under all circumstances. Therefore, all parties to the Geneva treaty are legally committed to refrain from participating, helping, cooperating in or encouraging in any way Israel's illegitimate activities, which have resulted in the looting and exploitation of the natural resources of the occupied territories and in causing harm to Egypt, the legal owner of these resources.

Various aspects of the Israeli actions in the occupied Arab territories have been studied by the competent UN organs. The UN Security Council and General Assembly have stressed the illegitimacy of these actions on various occasions and called on Israel to stop. In addition, the General Assembly has urged all states not to cooperate with or give aid to Israel which is to be used in the occupied territories. As a reminder, it is sufficient to mention General Assembly Resolution 23/161, which, among other things, calls on states, international organizations, specialized agencies, investment companies and all other establishments not to recognize, cooperate or help in any way any Israeli measures to exploit the resources of the occupied territories or change the topographical formation or geographical nature of the main structure of these territories.

In this general framework, the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt again stresses the illegitimacy of the Israeli activities of prospecting for oil and exploiting the occupied Egyptian territories. Consequently, any form of aid or cooperation extended to Israel in this field is considered illegal. It is the responsibility of the member states to advise all the public and private companies that any connection with such Israeli activities is illegal and that these companies must realize that they will bear the responsibility of their connection with the Israeli oil activities in the occupied Egyptian territory and the nearby territorial waters.

The Arab Republic of Egypt reserves the right to recover these resources and to be fully compensated for the prospecting exploitation, depletion, loss or damage caused as a result of these illegal Israeli operations. In addition, the public and private oil companies connected with the Israeli activities in the occupied Egyptian territory will risk losing their qualification to obtain future concessions from the Arab Republic of Egypt.

AS-SADAT LEAVES ABU SUNBUL, ARRIVES IN ASWAN

NC131250Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1237 GMT 13 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Aswan, 13 April--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat arrived at Aswan airport at 1350 today from Abu Sunbul as part of his current tour to inspect food security projects in Upper Egypt. President as-Sadat is accompanied by Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and controller of provincial economic development operation Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman.

INFORMATION MINISTER INTERVIEWED BY KUWAITI PAPER

LD131700Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 11 Apr 78 p 7 LD

[Interview granted by Iraqi Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi to Mahbub al-'Abdallah in Kuwait--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] What is your opinion of the information cooperation between the gulf states after three conferences of the ministers of information? Has anything been achieved?

[Answer] All signs indicate that information cooperation between the gulf states is positive and reflects the common desire to cooperate in the various information fields, both within the news agencies, radio and television and in various other fields of media cooperation.

[Question] What is the GULF NEWS AGENCY expected and required to do, in addition to the national news agencies that most of the countries participating in it are operating?

[Answer] The official inauguration of the GULF NEWS AGENCY was a significant information event and constituted a new step in the cooperation between the countries of the area, not only in the field of information but also in cooperation in general. In other words, the success of the project will add to the process of information and general cooperation between the sons of the sisterly states.

INA will translate the GULF NEWS AGENCY newscasts into English for dissemination to Europe. The GULF NEWS AGENCY also will be able to use INA facilities to disseminate its news.

[Question] The question has been raised by some in the gulf area that cooperation, coordination and joint projects in the field of information by countries of the gulf amount to the formation of a bloc. What is your opinion?

[Answer] Gulf information cooperation is a purely internal Arab action which is not aimed against anyone. This is proven by the fact that there already are bilateral cooperation agreements in the field of information between countries of the gulf, including Iraq. For example, INA has an agreement with the Iranian PARS news agency.

Cooperation between neighborly states is desirable and this is not contradictory with cooperation among the Arab brothers.

[Question] What has happened in regard to Iraq's call for convening a summit meeting of the steadfastness and liberation states following the recent developments in the Arab area?

[Answer] Iraq is in favor of any national effort that will help the Arabs to repel the Zionist-imperialist aggression. We have always called for the adoption of clear, serious and specific stands because this is the only way to shift the Arab situation from its present state of deterioration to a new state characterized by strength, firmness and the resolve to repel the aggressor.

The front of steadfastness and liberation which we proposed to the various parties concerned is a good basis for discussion and for reaching a new formula for struggle, a formula that would mobilize the Arab nation's resources in the confrontation with its enemies and those who conspire against its rights.

Now that events have proven that the Iraqi position on confronting the Zionist-imperialist enemy is correct, those concerned must reconsider their positions and realize the futility of trying to deceive the people with pretensions that are soon exposed in the first test, as has happened in the case of Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. The paths of liberation and settlement can never meet regardless of time.

[Question] How are Iraq's political and economic relations with the gulf states?

[Answer] As a gulf state, Iraq sincerely tries to develop its political, economic, information, cultural and other relations with all of the gulf states without exception, and in so doing it acts in accordance with its genuine national objectives.

Despite the deliberately distorted ideas and wrong impressions formed by some of the brothers about Iraq and its aims and its objectives, time has proven to many the sincerity and clarity of the Iraqi stand in all matters concerning the gulf and the interests of its people.

We believe, for example, that insuring the stability of all the Gulf states is a joint responsibility and a common interest in view of the strategic importance of the area and its vast wealth.

Also the solving of bilateral problems between one Gulf state and another must be carried out through dialog and understanding and by showing good will instead of resorting to other methods which all the brothers reject.

We in Iraq believe that we have no shortage of anything; rather, we have much that we can offer to some of the Gulf countries in various fields. As I said, we act in accordance with our joint Arab responsibilities and the desire to contribute to the achievement of the development desired by all countries of the area.

We have to pay attention to the need to achieve harmony between the cultural and material standards of the sons of the Gulf. The balanced development of these countries is a basic factor for their stability, just as it is between rich and poor neighbors. Of course, such a policy has become the concern of the whole world and not just this area. In other words, the idea is that narrowing the economic gap between the countries of the area would contribute to their cooperation and understanding.

For our part, we do not see the political and ideological differences of regimes as an obstacle to the desired Gulf cooperation because the options for the sons of the area cannot be imposed from outside. It is very important to us that this area should remain Arab and that no foreign influence should penetrate it.

PREMIER BADRAN ASKED TO FORM CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

JN131633Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has called on the Jordanian Government to draw up a provisional law according to which a National Consultative Council will be established. The members of this council are to be men of ability, sound popular representation, and loyalty to the homeland, nation and constitution. The task of the council will be to give opinions and advice, as well as to discuss general policy and examine all legislation and laws enacted by the government. This will be done within the framework of cooperation with the government and in a spirit of public interest.

This is included in a letter His Majesty King Husayn today addressed to Prime Minister Mudar Badran. The following is the text of the letter:

Dear Prime Minister Mudar Badran:

I send you and your colleagues the ministers my sincere confidence and support, as well as my profound thanks and appreciation for what you are offering your homeland in continuous efforts and sincere work.

You know, and all our citizens know, that since its establishment as a modern state, Jordan has been based on the concept of the constitution, on regard for the rules of legitimacy, on a belief in law, and on consultations in governing and directing public life. The founder of this kingdom demonstrated the desire to consolidate these ideals within the Jordanian State and to make its primary responsibility--in addition to protecting the homeland, its integrity and the Arab cause--that of bolstering the bases of a legitimate constitutional rule which is stable and continuous.

Since I first shouldered the responsibility of serving my homeland Jordan, my dear people and their historic issues, I have taken care to consolidate this march and protect the enlightened legitimate state institutions which are based on the meanings of democracy, the sovereignty of law, and the responsible democratic interaction between political leaders and the people with their various factions, sectors, interests and aspirations.

As a result of this, Jordan has continued to defend its basic institutions which represent legitimacy, including our independent judiciary, sovereignty of law, government responsibility, the principle of separate authorities and a representative parliamentary life. This is taking place at a time when the representative institutions and democratic ideals have collapsed in many of the countries in our area and throughout the Third World. The Parliamentary Council in Jordan has remained alive throughout the past decades, which witnessed ferocious campaigns against legitimacy, parliamentary life and constitutional rules in our region. We say this without claiming perfection for our institutions or ignoring the requirements of our social and political conditions, which call for gradual and practical development. When the catastrophe of 1967 took place and with the subsequent fall of the West Bank into the jaws of occupation, Jordan faced a constitutional crisis which forced difficult alternatives on us. These conditions and the developments that followed them in the Arab and Palestinian area forced us in Jordan to choose a path we considered the least harmful and the least dangerous to our national commitments, our national unity and our constitutional concepts.

Thus, in accordance with the correct constitutional methods, we resorted to freezing the problem temporarily by halting electoral parliamentary activity until such a time that the conditions in the region and the picture of the future have become clear. It has now become clear to us that it is unnatural for the state to remain without one of its basic pillars while waiting for conditions in our region to be clarified. The burden of legislation cannot be borne by the executive authority alone, and the institution where the legitimate expression of the opinions, interests and feelings of the citizens occurs in freedom and responsibility regarding public issues should not disappear.

Therefore, and until the conditions allow the return of a complete representative parliamentary life, we are of the opinion that a National Consultative Council should be established, made up of men of ability, sound popular representation and loyalty to the homeland, the nation and the constitution. This council is to be entrusted with the task of giving opinions and advice, as well as discussing general policy, examining all legislation and laws enacted by the government, and discussing the general policy of the state within the framework of cooperation with the government and in a spirit of public interest.

I call on you and the government you are heading to draw up the appropriate provisional law according to which this new council will be established as soon as possible so as to begin its big national task. I would like to stress again that the establishment of this council is not a substitute for any of our institutions provided for by the constitution. It is also not a substitute for the complete electoral parliamentary life we are used to and to which we have announced our determination to return once the actual conditions of our country, our Arab homeland and the region allow this. We will do this without sacrificing a pan-Arab, national or principled commitment.

May God grant success to the homeland and the people, and direct you to their welfare and the service of principles and aims on which our country is based and for which our nation is looking forward.

May God's peace be with you.

Further Report

JN140655Y Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Apr 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Amman, April 13 (JT)--The National Consultative Council will have sixty members, and in addition the former senate (upper house) of the Jordanian Parliament will be recalled, informed sources said here tonight. The upper house consists of thirty senators appointed by the king. It includes several prominant West Bank figures. The 60-member National Consultative Council will be appointed on a governorate-by-governorate basis. It was not clear whether the members would include representatives of West Bank governorates, nor if any women would be included.

The legislation setting up the National Consultative Council will be issued on Sunday, the sources said.

INTERIOR MINISTER RETURNS HOME FROM TOUR

JN132007Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar today returned to Amman after delivering messages from King Husayn to the heads of state in Iraq, Sudan, the YAR, and the PDRY containing the working program proposed by the Jordanian Government as the basis for the Arab summit conference called for by King Husayn.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, 'Arar said:

During this tour I conveyed messages from King Husayn to his brother heads of state in the countries I visited. It was a good opportunity to explain the Jordanian working paper and Jordan's viewpoint on the issue and to listen to their viewpoints.

He added: We in Jordan are the best informed about Israel's expansionist intentions and about the extent to which Israel abides by UN resolutions. We are sure that Israel would not have committed its repeated aggressions but for the clear divisions in the Arab ranks. Its recent adventure of occupying southern Lebanon is a frank confirmation of such an attitude, namely, its refusal to submit to UN resolutions. To prevent the perpetuation of this aggression and the occupation of Arab land forever, and to prevent Israel from repeating its action and expanding its occupation of Lebanon and other countries, the Arabs must recognize their responsibilities.

SHARAF RETURNS, RECEIVED BY PREMIER BADRAN

JN121237Y Amman AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 12 Apr 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran yesterday evening received in his office His Excellency 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court. During the meeting the results of the tour made by Sharaf to several Arab capitals were discussed.

PAKISTANI CHIEF OF STAFF ENDS VISIT TO AMMAN

JN111633Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1550 GMT 11 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 11 April--Staff Lt Gen Sadiq ar-Rashid Abbasi, chief of staff of the Pakistani ground forces, and the military delegation accompanying him left Amman today following a visit of several days to Jordan. During the visit he met with His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Jordanian armed forces; His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; His Excellency Staff Lt Gen Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian armed forces; and a number of senior military officials. He also inspected several military positions and institutions, and visited historic and tourist sites in the kingdom.

INFORMATION DELEGATION LEAVES FOR HAVANA

JN131652Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The Jordanian delegation to the second conference of the governmental council for information coordination among the nonalined countries, to be held in Havana next Saturday, left Amman today.

Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, who is leading the delegation, said that the conference will discuss a number of working papers, including one on the pool of nonalined news agencies and cooperation among no alined radio stations. He said that the conference will last 10 days and will issue a political statement which will be presented to the second meeting of the UNESCO International Committee for Communications to be held in Stockholm at the end of this month.

SARKIS MEETS WITH AL-AS'AD, BUTRUS, AL-HUSS

NC131328Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Apr 78 NC

[Text] At 1030 today at the presidential palace, President Ilyas Sarkis received Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Kamil al-As'ad in the presence of Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus. They reviewed the general situation in the light of the new developments in the security and political fields.

At 1000 today President Sarkis held a working meeting with Minister Butrus. The meeting was resumed after Speaker al-As'ad left the palace. At 1300 Prime Minister Salim al-Huss joined the meeting.

After the meeting, which lasted until 1115, Speaker Kamil al-As'ad said: There is no doubt that the continuation of the present situation is a setback to the unity of Lebanese ranks and Lebanon's integrity as an entity and homeland. We cannot abandon Lebanon's unit, whatever the reasons and consequences may be. We hope that the responsible Lebanese leaders will seek to contain everything that might undermine such unity. Every sacrifice in this respect is a bold and courageous stand.

He added: Efforts are being made to end the fighting. However, I believe that in order for these efforts to succeed they must stem not from local military measures but from a national vision, which alone can deliver Lebanon from the dangerous crossroad of self-determination on whether to be or not to be.

Asked whether he will hold talks with Syrian officials on the situation in Lebanon during his visit to Damascus tomorrow, Speaker al-As'ad said: I will visit Damascus tomorrow on the 40th day of the death of my mother. The discussion of this subject was not originally planned.

SARKIS, AL-AS'AD MEET; AL-HUSS MEETS 'ARAFAT

NC132054Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Within the framework of efforts undertaken to contain the incidents which have affected security in the country, President Ilyas Sarkis this evening met with Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Kamil al-As'ad, who had also called on the president this morning. Speaker al-As'ad is expected to leave for Damascus tomorrow.

In addition, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met this evening with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who was accompanied by a PLO delegation consisting of Faruq Qaddumi, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi, Talal Naji, 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad and Habib Qahwaji. The meeting lasted 90 minutes, during which a general review was made of Lebanese-Palestinian relations and the situation in the south, particularly in regard to Israel's withdrawal.

LEBANESE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT ISSUES STATEMENT

LD131700Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 11 Apr 78 p 19 LD

[Text] Beirut--Special AS-SIYASAH dispatch--The Lebanese Nationalist and Progressive parties and forces have rejected a proposal by the Lebanese interior minister to consider the subject of withdrawing Syrian and Arab forces from Lebanon.

Well-placed sources told AS-SIYASAH that at a meeting early this month with the leadership of the Lebanese Nationalist parties and forces Lebanese Interior Minister Salah Salam sought the opinion of the leadership on the question of withdrawing the Arab and Syrian forces from Lebanon. It has been said that the Lebanese interior minister broached the matter with the leadership by asking: Since your relations with Syria--as we know--are not good, then what is the objection to your supporting steps to withdraw the Syrian and Arab deterrent forces from Lebanon? The answer of the Lebanese Nationalist forces was: Even though we differ with Syria, the Syrian presence in the circumstances of Israeli occupation becomes a national presence, and any contemplation of ousting the Syrians is national treason.

AS-SIYASAH has obtained the statement issued by the Central Political Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, which was issued on 4 April. The statement contains a comprehensive political view of what is currently happening in Lebanon. The following is the text of the document:

At its regular weekly meeting on 4 April 1978 the Central Political Council of the Nationalist and Progressive forces discussed developments of the general situation in the country in light of Israeli occupation of the south and came to the following conclusions:

First, there is no doubt whatsoever that Israel is implementing a comprehensive military and political plan aimed at entrenching its occupation of the territories it seized in the south. On the one hand its gives the excuse that the formation of the UN forces has not yet been completed, and on the other it uses the excuse of the legitimate nationalist resistance against its occupation. Furthermore, it makes its withdrawal conditional upon the liquidation of Palestinian presence in all the Lebanese territory and is imposing its authority in the south as a fait accompli whether with the force of its army or with the help of its local tools, as in the case of traitor Sa'd Haddad. Through all these actions Israel aims at prolonging its occupation of the south; it declares without hesitation that it intends to stay for a long time. This was stressed more than once in statements by Israeli leaders last week.

As for the story about beginning to reduce the Israeli forces in some of the occupied areas, it is only intended to take the wind out of the urgent local, Arab and international demand for immediate Israeli withdrawal from all the Lebanese territories.

Second, even though Israel was expected to behave in the manner it did, it is surprising indeed that the Lebanese authority should continue to behave toward the Israeli occupation as if it were a matter of fact and to accept the conditions of such occupation as if they were inevitable.

Thus far the authority has not defined its official stand regarding the practical translation of UN Security Council Resolution No 425 and did not ask for drawing up a timetable for its implementation so as to insure an immediate Israeli withdrawal from all the Lebanese territories. The authority did not launch an Arab or international campaign to escalate pressure on Israel and on the Security Council to implement the resolution. This is in addition to the fact that the authority has maintained complete silence over the actions and pronouncements of agent Sa'd Haddad. The authority failed to disavow him and kept him within the framework of the official army; he is maintaining all his contacts with the command and enjoying all the privileges of an official employee.

This fact reveals the character of the army which had an agent like Sa'd Haddad in its ranks. Moreover, the authority's interference in defining the practical role of the UN forces has led to changing the original task of these forces from one of supervising Israeli withdrawal to one covering areas to which occupation has not reached with the aim of removing the nationalist forces from their positions.

Third, the fact is that the authority--especially during the last week--has not only been adopting a negative attitude in the face of Israeli occupation but has also been getting involved in policies that seriously endanger and affect our national battle as a whole against the Zionist enemy.

The authority is obviously encouraging the demand of opening what is known as "the Palestinian dossier," the demand which is being led by the "Lebanese front." Through such encouragement the authority is trying to promote the idea that Lebanon is under "two occupations," an Israeli on the one hand and a Palestinian on the other.

Inasmuch as the authority is charting the course of how to end these two occupations, we find it primarily concerned with the call to liquidate the Palestinian presence on the grounds that it is the greater danger while it considers the Israeli occupation an opportunity to achieve such a liquidation.

While this logic of the "Lebanese front" is the essence of its plan to turn Lebanon into a sectarian, racist state open to the Zionist state, what is absolutely not understandable nor justifiable is the authority's falling into this trap and its going along with the call for opening the so-called "Palestinian dossier." This is the most that Israel can want so that it would be able to link its occupation to internal Lebanese development, make its withdrawal conditional upon the liquidation of the Palestinian presence and change the balance of power in the Lebanese arena to the disadvantage of the Lebanese Nationalist presence. This means pushing the question of Israeli occupation to the background, abolishing its priority and--what is even more serious--inciting an internal battle that could lead neither to liquidating the Palestinian presence nor striking at the nationalist presence--since both objectives are impossible--the results of which would inevitably plunge the country into the whirlpool of a civil war. This would give Israel the opportunity it has been looking for in order to perpetuate its occupation of the south and exhaust the whole of Lebanon so that it will eventually impose its complete control over it.

We must also point here to the risks involved in the policy the present authority is pursuing in order to reestablish itself and its effectiveness in the southern area.

The Nationalist Movement's demand--even up to the moment Israel occupied a major part of the south--has been that the authority should fully assume its administrative, social and security responsibilities in the area which was involved in the fighting. But the state had always been reluctant and found excuses and justifications for not doing so. However, after the Israeli occupation the state suddenly became active, and several announcements were made about its imminent return to the south. The Nationalist Movement welcomed all this: It welcomed the return of evacuees [to the south], which in fact was its original policy; it welcomed the official decisions to insure social services for the citizens; and it also welcomed the sending of Internal Security Forces to carry out their tasks in the area.

But it was indeed surprised by the government's intention to send its security forces and departments to the area under Israeli occupation. It found this--and has the right to do so--an extremely grave measure jeopardizing the very basis of our national battle against occupation.

When in the past the state was asked to send its services and government departments to the border areas, its excuse for not doing so was the presence of armed national elements there--the elements which carried arms against Israel--whose presence it considered an occupation of the south. It also made its return to the area conditional upon the end of such a presence.

Therefore, why does the state today send its security forces and departments to those areas despite Israeli occupation and under its umbrella? We need not enumerate here the serious dangers that could result from this, but it suffices to indicate to what it might lead with regard to the national situation. This includes the question of setting up an agent army under the command of traitor Sa'd Haddad under the supervision and control of Israeli occupation, an action thatwould gain legitimacy from the authority's approval of it. It also suffices to point out here that this would also mean the official authority's acceptance of peaceful coexistence with the Israeli occupation through its security organs and its various departments.

We would understand if the state declares that it is prepared to enter the occupied border areas with its various forces and activities as soon as the Israeli occupation comes to an end because such a declaration--which indeed is required--would constitute a basic element of political pressure on Israel to force it to withdraw. But the state's acceptance of being present under the umbrella of Israeli occupation cannot be compatible with continuing its national task of confronting Zionist occupation, calling for its removal and rallying forces and the world opinion against it. Or is the idea to shelve the question of Israeli occupation until such time as the internal battle achieves the objectives planned for it?

Fourth, all this clearly shows how serious is the game that some are trying to play today by imagining that they can exploit Israeli occupation in the interest of internal plans and objectives that aim at controlling the Lebanese situation. Israel is not the party that can be exploited for any purposes except for those serving its own objectives; it is the only one that will gain from such a serious internal game which some are inclined to play. This is unless these people consider placing the entire Lebanese people under Zionist control as one of their desired objectives and final goal for Lebanon.

Therefore, the Nationalist Movement today once again declares its resolve to firmly oppose the idea of playing down the question of Israeli occupation regardless of whose idea it is, because by doing so it would be fighting the battle for saving Lebanon.

Once again we call upon all the Lebanese who care for the future of their country and the right of its people to exist and to live to stand solidly behind the nationalist stand that considers the question of Israeli occupation as the country's number one problem, gives it absolute priority and seeks to mobilize all the forces and capabilities under the slogan: Fight against Israeli occupation and for the sake of liberating the land and protecting the homeland.

The Nationalist Movement once again calls upon the Lebanese authority to give up its present policy that gives Israel more opportunities. It also calls for the adoption of categorical and unequivocal attitudes calling for the immediate and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all the Lebanese territories, bearing in mind the need for mobilization and for launching a worldwide Arab campaign that would impose the necessary siege on the Israeli enemy, which today is trying to steal our land and take control of our national destiny.

[Dated] Beirut 4 April 1978

[Signed] The Central Political Council of the Progressive and Nationalist forces in Lebanon

VOICE OF LEBANON SCORES DETERRENT FORCES

NC131404Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 13 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The shelling is still going on, the negotiations are still going on, while innocent victims continue to fall. At a time when a meeting of a joint security committee of the Lebanese forces and the deterrent forces has begun to discuss means to stabilize the cease-fire, the random shelling of 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Furn ash-Shubbak has increased, leaving behind innocent civilian victims and property losses.

As well as causing losses in life and property, the shelling has also felled a bigger victim, called "Arab security in Lebanon." Political quarters and Lebanese public opinion believe that the clashes of the past 4 days have shown that the Arab deterrent forces appear to be a main party to the conflict instead of playing the role of referee.

If the Cairo agreement collapsed when Israel entered the south, the Riyadh summit conference resolutions in turn collapsed when the mouths of the guns opened up on 'Ayn ar-Rummanah. So far, the contacts underway have not led to a cease-fire, although there are draft agreements in this regard.

At 1000 today, a meeting was held at the Arab deterrent forces building attended by representatives of the deterrent forces and the Phalangist and National Liberal parties. Sources at the meeting say that the discussion centered on finding common denominators that would be acceptable to those concerned with the security situation in Ash-Shiyyah and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and that would lead to the containment of the clashes and to ending them once and for all.

It has been learned that those at the meeting have agreed on a formula based on the following points:

1. Clear orders will be issued by the leaderships of the various combatant parties to cease firing. Among these orders will be a statement from the Arab deterrent forces ordering a halt to the random shelling of 'Ayn ar-Rummanah.

2. Sudanese forces will be deployed all along the line, extending from the Mar Mikha'il Church in Ash-Shiyah to At-Tayyunah from the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah side.

3. Syrian forces will be deployed all along the line extending from the Mar Mikha'il Church to At-Tayyunah from the Ash-Shiyah side.

4. Fixed and mobile observation posts will be established all along the road separating Ash-Shiyah and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah. Lebanese officers will take over responsibility for supervising the cease-fire and identifying those who violate the cease-fire.

5. Gunmen belonging to the Palestinian organizations and leftist organizations, as well as the Iraqi recruits, will be withdrawn from streets and the frontlines in Ash-Shiyah, while complete civilian activity will return to the streets and frontlines in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah.

6. The Arab deterrent forces command will withdraw its forces from the residential buildings, offices and government departments which they occupied in the areas of At-Tayyunah, Sami as-Sulh and Badaru during the clashes and will release the elements who were kidnaped or detained without cause.

Reports indicate that there are difficulties obstructing the implementation of this agreement. They are psychological difficulties, which are caused by mistrust. Previous experience also does not encourage the Lebanese leadership to go far in pinning hopes on military agreements if they are not accompanied by political agreements which will act as a safety valve against any decisions made in the combat areas.

MAJOR HADDAD REPORTED EMPOWERED TO BUILD ARMY

JN131222Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1058 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 13 April--The newspaper AL-WATAN, the organ of the Central Political Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, has reported that former Lebanese Army Commander Hanna Sa'id is personally supervising the building of the army of the isolationist Maj Sa'd Haddad. The paper said that last Sunday Hanna Sa'id was inspecting the [southern Lebanese] border strip accompanied by one of Haddad's soldiers.

AL-WATAN quoted Major Haddad as saying that "the future would be black if the IDF withdrew from southern Lebanon."

On the other hand, Major Haddad has asked the village chiefs in occupied southern Lebanon to send their men to his army. He showed them a letter from the Lebanese Army command signed by Gen Victor Khuri, the present commander of the Lebanese Army, empowering him with this task.

SHAM'UN SAYS BBC CONTROLLED BY PALESTINIANS

NC131842Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 13 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] This evening former President Camille Sham'un affirmed that an agreement has been reached on a cease-fire and on the stationing of the deterrent forces on lines in accordance with the plan drawn up for this purpose. However, he said, we have been informed that two shells fired by the Palestinians have fallen during the deployment operation.

Sham'un said: It is common knowledge that the Palestinians always try to subvert any agreement reached so that they can fulfill their aims and plots. Because of this exposed Palestinian stand, the Arab deterrent forces should strike back to prevent a repetition of such acts.

Sham'un said: I want to comment on the press conference which Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil and Dany Sham'un have held with the Arabic section of the BBC. [sentence as heard] The BBC has been taken over by a Palestinian gang ('isabah falastiniyah) and is being used by this gang for its own purposes and motives in such a way that the BBC now only broadcasts distorted and sometimes false reports. This has caused us to stop listening to the BBC.

NATIONALIST MOVEMENT TO VISIT MOSCOW 24 APRIL

JN131029Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 13 April--Sources of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement today announced that a delegation representing the movement will leave for Moscow on 24 April to hold talks with Soviet officials on the developments of the situation in the region. The delegation will include Walid Junblatt [leader of the Progressive Socialist Party], Nicola ash-Shawi [leader of the Lebanese Communist Party], Ibrahim Qulaylat [leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun], and members of the Central Political Council of the movement.

The sources said that other delegations will proceed to Baghdad, Damascus, Tripoli and Algiers for the same purpose.

A delegation of the Nationalist Movement left Beirut yesterday on a tour of Hungary, the GDR and Bulgaria.

CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT IN 'AYN AR-RUMMANAH REPORTED

NC131836Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 13 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The coordination committee which met this morning has reached an agreement on a cease-fire, but this agreement has not been implemented yet. The agreement consists of the following points:

1. Clear orders will be issued by the leaders of the various combatant forces to cease firing. Among these orders will be a statement from the Arab deterrent forces command ordering a halt to the random shelling of 'Ayn ar-Rummanah.

2. Sudanese forces will be deployed all along the line extending from the Mar Mikha'il Church in Ash-Shiyah to the borders of 'Ayn ar-Rummanah.

3. Fixed and mobile observation posts will be established all along the road separating Ash-Shiyah and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah. Lebanese officers will assume responsibility for supervising the cease-fire and identifying violators.

4. Gunmen belonging to Palestinian organizations and leftist organizations, as well as the Iraqi recruits, will be withdrawn from the streets and frontlines in Ash-Shiyah. Normal life will completely return to the streets and frontlines of 'Ayn ar-Rummanah.

5. The Arab deterrent forces command will withdraw its forces from the residential buildings, offices and government departments which they occupied in the areas of At-Tayyunah, Sami as-Sulh and Badaru during the clashes and will release persons who were kidnaped or detained without cause.

At the Arab deterrent forces command building, Lt Col Sami al-Khatib, commander of the Arab deterrent forces, met with Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil, commander of the unified Lebanese forces; Dany Sham'un, defense secretary of the National Liberal Party; and Maj Gen 'Ali Aslan, commander of the Syrian forces. They continued consultations which are expected to produce practical results to control the situation.

At 1730 today the joint Saudi-Sudanese forces began taking up positions between At-Tayyunah and Mar Mikha'il in the area adjacent to 'Ayn ar-Rummanah.

At the same time, the Syrian forces moved from the At-Tayyunah axis in the direction of Mar Mikha'il in the area adjacent to Ash-Shiyah. The stationing of the forces was preceded by a meeting of the members of the security coordination committee at the Arab deterrent forces command building. These forces were to begin deploying at 1600. However, they were delayed for technical and administrative reasons, in addition to the need for further contacts which the committee held with the various sides to enable the deterrent forces to take up positions without encountering difficulties.

ARTILLERY SHELLING OF 'AYN AR-RUMMANAH STOPS

NC131528Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 13 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] The latest reports from the Voice of Lebanon correspondents in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah indicate that the artillery shelling has stopped.

DETERRENT FORCES REINFORCED IN SOUTHERN BEIRUT

JN140558Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 14 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut--A responsible source in the command of the Arab deterrent forces [ADF] last night stated the following: In view of the security problem in the Ash-Shiyah-'Ayn ar-Rummanah area and following an increase in sniper and sabotage activities there hampering the duty of the ADF forces along the dividing line and causing a deterioration in the situation during the past 2 days which led to more casualties and damage, the ADF adopted new measures by bringing in new reinforcements and coordinating a plan with the two combatant sides to hunt down the snipers and deliver them to the authorities. These measures were taken at 1900 last night without incident.

On the other hand, the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the front of the nationalist parties and forces have emphasized the need for the ADF to continue their security mission in Lebanon. A statement released last night said that the establishment of strong cooperation between Syria on the one hand and the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese forces on the other to preserve Lebanon's unity and Arabism is an urgent necessity to confront the conspiracies being hatched against Lebanon as part of the capitulation plan in the Arab region.

The statement announced the formation of a preparatory national committee whose task is to unify Arab ranks against the Zionist occupation.

The statement called on all the forces, organizations and leaderships as well as all Lebanese to exert their efforts to carry out joint national action to expel the aggressor Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

TENSE SITUATION IN BEIRUT, TRIPOLI REPORTED

JN140841Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] The southern Beirut quarter of Ash-Shiyah last night came under the artillery fire of the rightist forces. Beirut press reports today said that one shell fell on a school, killing two girls and injuring a number of civilians believed to be southern Lebanese refugees who are using the school as a temporary shelter. The Ash-Shiyah-'Ayn ar-Rummanah area has been the scene of fierce clashes during the past 5 days.

In the meantime, reports speak about concentrations of rightist forces in the port area in northern Beirut and along the highway to Juniyah, a rightist base, which indicate that the rightists intend to escalate the military situation and expand the area of the clashes.

On the other hand, rightist elements yesterday detained 10 Lebanese citizens along the Beirut-Tripoli highway. This highway is now unsafe because of the emergence of armed roadblocks belonging to the rightist front. The INA correspondent in Tripoli says that rightist elements beat up the passengers of vehicles traveling on the Beirut-Tripoli highway.

TRAVELERS DETAINED ON BEIRUT-TRIPOLI HIGHWAY

JN132021Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 13 April--Rightist forces today detained 10 citizens along the Tripoli-Beirut International Highway. Thus this highway is now impassable because of the appearance of armed rightist roadblocks on it.

The INA correspondent in Tripoli reported that the rightist forces are detaining all passengers in vehicles traveling between Beirut and Tripoli.

The INA correspondent also reported a wide-scale clash between nationalist students and armed rightist elements in Halba township in 'Akkar district. This has created a tense atmosphere in the area and disrupted studies in Halba.

Tension also prevails between nationalist and rightist students in university branches in Tripoli.

KHADDAM OUTLINES POSITION ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

JN131305Y **Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN**

[Text] Damascus--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has asserted that the continued Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and Israel's refusal to withdraw from it constitute a direct threat to Lebanon, Syria and the Arab nation.

Khaddam urged world public opinion to shoulder its reponsibilities toward this serious situation and to adopt adequate measures to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425, which provides for an immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

In a press statement to the Swiss TV network, Khaddam said that the situation in southern Lebanon is extremely critical in view of the Israeli aggresssion, which reflects the aggressive nature of the Zionist expansionist policy and which is a direct and serious threat to the situation in the area. Khaddam asserted that Syria believes the implementation of Resolution 425 is the course which might prevent the the occurrence of great dangers that would menace the area's security.

Asked whether he belives that the Security Council resolution will force Israel to withdraw, Khaddam said that the resolution frankly calls upon Israel to withdraw its forces from the south. However, the Israelis are impeding the process of implementation, and, consequently, they are exposing the area to a dangerous and bad situation, threatening world peace and security as well as peace and security in this part of the world.

Asked if there is coordination between Syria and the UN troops in southern Lebanon, Khaddam said that Syria is not a party in the Lebanese situation and, therefore, the coordination should be between the Lebanese Government and the United Nations.

Khaddam said that Syria is offering aid to the Lebanese Government in order to establish the power and authority of the Lebanese Government and to rebuild the constitutional institutions and government establishments, including the Lebanese Army. Khaddam asserted that Syria will exert every possible effort to assist all parties in Lebanon to establish peace and security there.

AL-BA'TH COMMENTS ON CARTER'S 'SLIP OF TONGUE'

JN140725Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 Apr 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting in its "With the Events" column under the headline "Slip of the Tongue About What?" The newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Jimmy Carter is the third American President, after Nixon and Ford, to say that his reference to Jerusalem as the capital of Israel was just a slip of the tongue. Is it conceivable for three consecutive American Presidents to slip on the same point, or is this just a tactic to establish a certain fact in order to arrange matters in the area to America's and Israel's liking?

All indications show that the United States is trying by every means to establish this fact. It is giving all-out support to Israel, pushing the Egyptian regime toward more concessions and exerting pressure on those Arab countries opposing the As-Sadat line, headed by Syria, to shake them from their nationalist position.

All three American Presidents discovered their error and said it was a slip of the tongue. But we believe that those slips of the tongue were intentional to avoid any Arab reaction. Those slips of the tongue truly express the U.S. position, otherwise they would not have occurred on the same point.

It is obvious from the increasing U.S. support for Israel's expansionist policy that the American President now wants to go ahead and recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. He sees no embarrassment in that, especially since some Arab leaders have preceded him in doing so. As-Sadat went to occupied Jerusalem, held talks with Zionist officials and paid tribute to the dead of Israel's aggressive expansionist wars.

Therefore, it is very likely that the American President's words, which were construed as a slip of the tongue, are a prelude to U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and the recognition of the Israeli occupation of Arab territories.

PRESS ASSAILS ISRAELI ACTIONS, U.S. SUPPORT

JN131010Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Those Who Are Playing With Fire Will Be Punished," the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH writes an editorial in which it sheds light on the crime committed by Israel by its use of an espionage device equipped with nuclear cells. With this crime Israel has added a new crime to its previous ones.

ATH-THAWRAH says: Among the well-known crimes committed by Israel is that of using U.S.-made cluster bombs, whose use is internationally banned. These bombs were used against unarmed Lebanese and Palestinian citizens. We shall not go back further to provide more examples of weapons whose use has been banned internationally and which have been used by the Zionist forces in their hostile wars against the Arabs. What is more important to mention here is that Israel used these weapons of U.S. origin with Washington's assistance and within sight and hearing of the U.S. capital, without the U.S. authorities' doing anything to prevent these Israeli violations of law and international norms. On the contrary, Washington has been the only one to defend and protect the Zionist gang in all international forums.

ATH-THAWRAH further says: Those who heard about the U.S. ban on arms shipments to Turkey following its invasion of Cyprus may think that the United States will not allow its weapons to be used by other countries in their invasion of other countries, particularly after the clamor which was raised in the United States about the possibility of lifting this ban by those who oppose such a move. ATH-THAWRAH says: Washington has adopted such a position vis-a-vis Turkey not out of concern for the Cypriot people or the independence of Cyprus, but first and foremost because the issue was related to a conflict between two of its allies who are members of the same pact, and secondly, to save face before its other allies. Washington has clearly announced through its secretary of state that it will not take measures to punish Israel for its violations, despite many reminders by some members of Congress that it has signed agreements with Israel prohibiting Israel from using American weapons in its aggressions against others. The United States did not even express regret at Israel's shedding the blood of innocent victims, whether children or old people, with these weapons. Despite all appearances and claims, Washington continues to provide Israel with the latest sophisticated weapons produced by its destruction plants to kill the Arabs wherever they are, whether armed on the battlefield or peaceful and defenseless.

ATH-THAWRAH concludes: The As-Sadat regime will not be able to cover up the ugly U.S. face and its direct participation in the crimes perpetrated against the entire Arab nation despite As-Sadat's belief that 99 percent of the cards to the just settlement are in the hands of the United States and despite the few favors he is getting from his present policy, even if he were to grovel at the steps of the White House all his life. Finally, those Arabs who are panting after As-Sadat and those whose eyes are still veiled must wake up and atone for past deeds.

Under the leadline "The Coming Hot Summer," the newspaper AL-BA'TH writes an editorial in which it speaks of the various acts of the As-Sadat conspiracy against the Arab struggle movement, and the failure of this conspiracy.

AL-BA'TH says: What kind of summer will come after the cold spring? It is a grave mistake for the Arab citizen to get comfort from the state of stagnation which usually accompanies a cold season and to turn his attention away from the activities occurring under this stagnating surface. There is more than one indication that one move has ended and that others are in the offing, if not already begun. What has ended is the As-Sadat move. Its failure was the last stage in the act of his declared intentions. However, this was only one of the acts As-Sadat has up his sleeve. Most of his other acts are undeclared. It is not true that As-Sadat was seeking peace, even through capitulation, when he visited Jerusalem to offer his recognition of the Zionist entity with Jerusalem as its capital. As-Sadat knows that such a peace is not possible and that his jumping at it will change the nature of the alliances which prepared the ground for a strong Egyptian presence in the area. As-Sadat is also well aware that such a change is capable of harming the Arab movement. However, he had to do this in order to become the minor partner of the United States in Africa and the Arab area following the U.S. return to the area through the door of the suspended settlement. [as heard]

AL-BA'TH adds: Now that the comprehensive settlement is no longer possible and the United States is embarrassed because its name is now linked with that of the suspended settlement, the situation is open to new kinds of moves intended to cover up for previous ones and to project new alternatives. If the comprehensive settlement desired by the Arabs is farfetched and will not be achieved for a long time, then the momentum must not be restricted to just achieving the results of this settlement through the rearrangement of the situation in the area. It is necessary to group the dispersed Arab parties after the loss of their cohesion. Thus, As-Sadat now accepts what he refused a month ago, that is, an Arab summit conference. All the attention now is directed toward Lebanon, with warnings of a stifling summer ahead, reflecting the crisis in the Arab situation and, at the same time, testing Arab steadfastness. What will happen next will be the big test for a steadfastness which must be the beginning of a change in the current crisis of the Arab situation.

AL-HALABI MEETS WITH PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

JN131523Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 13 April--Ahmud Hadid, People's Assembly speaker, and Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi discussed issues pertaining to the executive and legislative authorities and to cooperation between them at a meeting today at the office of the People's Assembly speaker.

ALGERIA

EL MOUDJAHID REPORTS ALGERIAN-DPRK COMMUNIQUE

LD130921Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 7 Apr 78 p 4 LD

[Unattributed report: "Departing Algiers, Korean Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Says: 'Algerian-Korean Relations Marked by Mutual Understanding'"]

[Text] "I am convinced that the consultations between the DPRK and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria contribute greatly to mutual understanding of problems and to strengthening the excellent relations between our two countries," Yi Chong-mok, DPRK vice minister of foreign affairs, declared at the end of a 5-day official visit to Algeria.

The Korean vice minister, who was received by Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Council of the Revolution and foreign minister, to whom he conveyed a message from Korean Minister Ho Tam, expressed satisfaction with the positive results of his visit and the talks which he had with Algerian Foreign Ministry officials.

"During this visit," Yi Chong added, "We have been able to see the successes achieved by the Algerian people under the enlightened leadership of President Houari Boumediene. We are also glad of the Algerian people's constant support for the reunification of the Korean people without foreign interference."

The Korean vice minister went on to express his profound thanks for the hospitality and the fraternal and warm welcome extended to him during his visit. He was seen off by Driss Djazairi and Abdelaziz Yadi, respectively assistant secretary general and director of a department at the Foreign Ministry, and by Kim Hui-chun, DPRK ambassador to Algeria.

During his stay the Korean vice minister paid a courtesy visit to Adellatif Rahal, minister of higher education and scientific research, and had talks at the Foreign Ministry offices with an Algerian delegation headed by Driss Djazairi, assistant secretary general.

The talks, in which Korea's ambassador to Algeria and Abdelaziz Yadi participated, essentially related to the evolution of the international situation and to the prospects for the development of the political consultation and economic cooperation between the two countries.

"During these talks part ılar stress was laid on the problem of the reunification of Korea and on the Near E. situation in the wake of the shameful Zionist aggression in southern Lebanon. In this connection the two sides advocated the immediate withdrawal of the Zionist forces," a press communique disseminated at the end of the visit stresses.

With reference to the situation prevailing in northwest Africa and particularly in Western Sahara, the communique notes that "this question also attracted the attention of the two delegations who agreed that a lasting solution can only be found on the basis of recognition of the fact that the Saharan people are the only masters of their own destiny, in accordance with the pertinent UN resolutions regarding the right to self-determination of peoples under colonial rule."

According to the communique, the two sides "embarked in the same context on a broad exchange of views on the development of the situation in southern Africa where the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia are struggling for their national liberation and respect for their dignity."

The communique continues: "With a view to the July 1978 meeting in Belgrade of the foreign ministers of the nonalined countries,the two delegations also stressed the importance of the role of the movement of nonalined countries on the international scene and the valuable contribution which this movement can make to strengthening the common position of the Third World countries in the face of imperialist manuevers.

"The question of the reunification of Korea occasioned consultations regarding the possibilities of accelerating the process of the peaceful and independent reunification of a country divided against its will by imperialism.

"The devotion of the two countries to the principles of nonalinement is based on their profound conviction that peace and international cooperation can only be founded on noninterference in states' internal affairs, territorial integrity and the elimination of foreign bases, and also on the effective establishment of the new international economic order. This prompted the two delegations to regard as imperative the need for the nonalined countries to unite their efforts in the present international situation in order to struggle against all forms of pressure and direct military intervention and for respect of the principles of the independence and sovereignty of states.

"During the talks the two sides informed one another of the situations in their respective countries and expressed their desire to continue the constant development which the relations of friendship and cooperation between Algeria and Korea are undergoing in the political, economic and cultural spheres.

"Complete identity of views emerged on all current problems relating to the international situation.

"Testifying to the militant support which the DPRK has always given to the Saharan people's struggle for the recognition of their national rights, Yi Ching-mok desired to meet the leaders of the POLISARIO front to whom he conveyed, on behalf of the Korean people, a message of solidarity," the communique concludes.

Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika received Yi Chong-mok, DPRK vice minister of foreign affairs, who delivered a message from Ho Tam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairsm which says in particular:

"In the last few years the relations of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of our two countries have been developing favorably with every passing day, and we vow to broaden and develop further in the future the excellent relations which exist between our two countries in various political, economic and cultural spheres.

"On the eve of conferences of the nonalinement movement we believe that it is useful for us to consult one another frequently to insure their success.

"Indeed, we must completely foil the maneuvers of the imperialists so as to insure that they cannot infiltrate the movement of nonalined countries and carry out dividing and splitting maneuvers there.

"In this connection we think that your country, which enjoys great influence among the nonalined countries, has a very important role.

"We will cooperate actively with you at the upcoming conferences with a view to achieving unity and cohesion and strengthening and developing the nonalinement movement."

SOVIET WARSHIPS DEPART ALGERIA FOLLOWING VISIT

LD131827Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Apr 78 LD

[Text] The Soviet military flotilla which has been in Algeria since 8 April on an official courtesy visit left Algiers harbor today. The flotilla consists of a destroyer, a cruiser and a submarine. During the visit of the flotilla, which is led by Adm Nikolas (Rabeskiy), Algerian and Soviet seamen held athletic and artistic activities.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI INTERVIEWED BY ITALIAN TV

AU120959Y Rome ANSA in English 0815 GMT 12 Apr 78 AU

[Text] Rome, April 12 (ANSA)--Italian Television last night broadcast an interview with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, during which the man responsible for transforming the country into the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah pinpointed his role in the Arab world and his policy's objectives.

The first questions of the four Italian Television newsmen--who interviewed Al-Qadhdhafi in a tent near Benghazi--concerned terrorism. The Libyan leader was asked the reasons behind suspicions that the Libyan secret services may be implicated in terrorism in Italy.

Al-Qadhdhafi replied that the rumors are part of an anti-Palestinian campaign organized by Zionists together with their ally, American colonialism, because Jamahiriyah is an active supporter of the Palestinian people and that these charges are a link in the long chain of the international conspiracy against the Palestinian people, even though it appears aimed at the Libyans.

In reply to a question on why Jamahiriyah did not intervene in favor of the Palestinians in the recent Israeli attack in southern Lebanon, the colonel said the Palestinians are considered guests in a land which is not theirs, in a state presumed to be independent. All these factors created difficulties for a direct intervention. Otherwise such an intervention would have been a duty for all Arab countries, Al-Qadhdhafi added.

During the interview the Libyan leader reconfirmed his total intransigence towards Israel and said that he is convinced that "political phenomena and racist colonial entities such as Israel or Rhodesia will disappear and the peoples who originally owned the land will win, the people of Palestine and the people of Zimbabwe."

"We do not recognize anything," the colonel added, "called Israel. The world knows only Palestine."

Al-Qadhdhafi explained his clash with Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat--leader of a country with which Jamahiriyah is still seeking union--"because the two people are actually one. The two lands with a single destiny are one single territory."

As-Sadat, Al-Qadhdhafi continued, wants to see the formation of a Palestinian state next to Israel while Al-Qadhdhafi wants to see a Palestinian state which is not a state of Arab Palestinians but also of Jewish Palestinians. According to the Libyan leader, the other Jews, those "invaders who emigrated from various nations and arrived after 1948, will have to return to their nations of origin."

Some of the last questions concerned relations between the Libyan Jamahiriyah and the Soviet Union which, Al-Qadhdhafi said, are good because the two countries have the same point of view towards the progress of exploited people and opposition towards colonialism. The Soviet Union supports, the colonel added, Jamahiriyah's positive non-alignment, the liberation of people and emancipation from exploitation.

In reply to the last question, which concerned Italian colonization of Libya, the colonel said it was a "black page in our joint history, a page to be forgotten."

MORO FRONT LEADER PRAISES LIBYA'S ATTITUDE

LD131947Y Tripoli JANA in English 1810 GMT 13 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Kuwait, April 13, JAMA--Mr Nour Meswari, the chairman of the Moro Liberation Front, praised the attitude being adopted by the Jamahiriyah and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi towards the Moslem revolutionaries in the south Philippines in their just struggle.

Mr Nour Meswari was reported by the JANA correspondent here to have declared that the Philippines authorities did violate the peace agreement concluded in Tripoli with the aim of ending the war in the Philippines. He also declared that the war in the south Philippines had fanned out to other areas and that the Philippines Government had recruited over 100,000 soldiers to take part in the fighting.

Mr. Nour Meswari added that so far he has visited Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as part of his tour of a number of Arab and Islamic countries.

Received by At-Turayki

LD131948Y Tripoli JANA in English 1836 GMT 13 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 13 April, JANA--Dr. 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary and chairman of the current session of the Foreign Ministers Council for the Islamic countries, today received Mr. Nour Meswari, chairman of the Moro Liberation Front, currently visiting tne Jamahiriyah.

The meeting, which was attended by the head of the Department of Asian Affairs at the Foreign Secretariat, covered the recent developments in the south Philippines, the persecution to which the Moslems there were subjected and the ways of putting into practice the Tripoli agreement regarding the concession of self-rule to people in the south Philippines.

SUDAN

VANCE, YOUNG STOP ON WAY TO DAR ES SALAAM

LD132000Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Apr 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] Cyrus Vance, U.S. secretary of state, stopped over at Khartoum airport at 1600 today on his way to Dar Es Salaam. He was accompanied by Andrew Young, U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations.

Mr Young made a statement to radio, press and agency reporters.

Asked about the prospects for a successful outcome to Mr Vance's meeting with the Rhodesian revolutionary [as heard] leaders, he said: We are making every effort so that all may live in peace in an independent Zimbabwe. He said: Peace cannot be achieved through fighting or through the internal settlement. The Anglo-U.S. proposals still represent the best basis for creating an independent Zimbabwe. We should go ahead and implement these proposals [words indistinct]: He added that the Anglo-U.S. proposals enjoyed the full support of the international community and the heads of the frontline states.

On the internal settlement in Rhodesia, Andrew Young said: The internal settlement does not provide the necessary basis for ending the fighting in Rhodesia [words indistinct].

(?Andrew Young declared): We will meet Ian Smith and his groups. A meeting will also take place with the Rhodesian Patriotic Front and the leaders of the African frontline states to discuss ways to bring together all the parties with a view to providing a suitable guarantee and [words indistinct] the transfer of power in Rhodesia to the African majority. [passage indistinct].

He (?said): The meeting between President Carter and Cyrus Vance and the foreign ministers of the frontline states in Lagos recently led to full understanding on the (?issue) [words indistinct].

He spoke on the (?stands) of the two Rhodesian leaders, [as heard] Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe, toward the proposed settlement and said: They (?reject) the internal settlement (?reached) by Ian Smith. They (?expressed) their confidence in the holding of negotiations to settle the Rhodesian problem on the basis of the Anglo-U.S. proposals.

Mr Cyrus Vance made a tour of the capital, accompanied by Ar-Rashid at-Tahir, vice president and foreign minister.

BRIEFS

ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA--Today, the Foreign Ministry stated that the Syrian Government has approved the appointment of brother 'Abd al-Qadir ibn Qasim as an ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic to the Syrian Arab Republic. [Text] [Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Apr 78 LD]

ALGERIAN LOAN--Washington--The World Bank has just granted a loan of $82 million for its first purifying project in Algeria, to which the Algerian Government is to contribute $72.2 million. This project, whose total cost will be $154.2 million, envisages the construction of drainage intercepters, a plant for purifying used water and the provision of technical assistance to the water corporation of the Algiers agglomeration. It will contribute to one of the government's priority objectives--the reduction of water pollution and the concommitant health hazards to Algiers' population, as well as ensuring drainage of rain water and flood protection. The World Bank loan is given to Algeria for a period of 17 years, including a 4-year repayment period, with an interest of 7.45 percent annually. [Algiers APS in French 0900 GMT 8 Apr 78 LD]

HA'AREZ SEES NO NEW MOMENTUM IN POLITICAL TALKS

TA131030Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 13 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Since the prime minister's last visit to the United States and the defense minister's return from his latest meetings in Egypt, there has been no new move in the negotiations between Jerusalem and Cairo--either through U.S. mediation or as a result of the direct dialog with Egypt.

As far as could be learned from an examination of the issue at the prime minister's office, the foreign and security ministries and U.S. sources, there has been no change in the negotiations situation. Since Mr Begin's return from his talks with Mr Carter, no new U.S. proposals about the continuation of the negotiations have reached Jerusalem.

The reports appearing in U.S. media that the United States is initiating new ideas regarding the declaration of principles and is considering submitting a peace program of its own, have, for the moment, no practical expression in Jerusalem. Neither is there any initiative for a renewal of the U.S. mediation on the matter of a confirmation of the gaps between Israel and Egypt on the issue of the declaration of principles. [sentence as published]

In parallel with this a freeze has also been created in the path of the direct Israeli-Egyptian dialog. In the latest meetings held by Weizman in Cairo 2 weeks ago [blank space] and the meetings, then, ended in an agreement to resume them after Egypt reconsiders its position.

When the talks ended, Weizman and Baraq did not know when they would return to Egypt, but soon after As-Sadat declared in the OCTOBER weekly that the talks would be resumed this week. In spite of this statement, no Egyptian invitation to the defense minister had arrived up to last night. The defense minister has not taken any initiative toward setting a date for the resumption of the talks in Cairo.

As published in HA'AREZ at the beginning of the week, Israel and Egypt are each waiting for the other to initiate a renewal of the direct contacts between them, with each one claiming that the other is to take the first step toward setting a date for a meeting, and that the other side has replies to the ideas put forward at the previous meeting.

Not all the governmental elements in Jerusalem think that Israel also has to formulate replies to proposals put forward in the talks. The view of the prime minister's circle is that it is the Egyptians who should reply to proposals Weizman and Baraq have put forward.

There is also a possibility that both sides will take the initiative for the resumption of the direct contacts. An evaluation was heard in Jerusalem last night to the effect that the current freeze may continue until the end of the month. On 30 April the prime minister is due to leave for a visit to the United States in the framework of the 30th anniversary celebrations, and apparently As-Sadat will also be there at that time.

According to evaluations originating in Washington, President Carter may take advantage of this opportunity to invite the two leaders for talks with him in order to try and advance the negotiations. If this is the prospect, then it is almost certain that Washington will, within the next few days, take an initiative to lay the groundwork for it.

The prime minister spent yesterday morning in a checkup in the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. In the afternoon he rested at his home and held several meetings. People from his office said that the tests showed that Mr Begin's medical condition is perfectly all right.

DAVAR DISCUSSES USE OF CLUSTER BOMBS BY IDF

TA131432Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Apr 78 p 7 TA

[Yehoshu'a Tadmor commentary]

[Text] If any further proof were needed that the Begin cabinet is a "rightwing cabinet with two left hands," the affair of the cluster bomb in Lebanon provided it. In Israel's papers the issue did not get more than half a column but anyone who followed the reports in the U.S. media or picked up something from the echoes of what was reported by Israel's representatives throughout the United States felt the blow physically. The reactions were sharp, even hostile, and on Capitol Hill matters reached the point of a demand to cease arms shipments to Israel.

It is important to remember that cluster bombs are linked in the U.S. consciousness with the dirty war in Vietnam, which left its scars on a whole generation in the United States. It was not without cause that President Carter tried to prevent the sale of cluster bombs to Israel. For months a nerve-wracking fight went on behind the scenes in Washington until the administration incorporated this item into the list of Israeli procurement. Nearly all of Israel's representatives in Washington were convinced that Carter would stick to his guns and turn down the request.

It is a little difficult to understand why it was so essential to use these bombs in southern Lebanon. At long last Israel had a definite superiority in the field. After all, most of the terrorists left before the IDF reached the area. It is true that here and there the terrorists fought a stubborn battle, but there was no real danger for the IDF anywhere. The Israeli superiority was complete in all sectors. The decision to use the bombs, around which such a difficult political battle had been fought in Washington, is proof not only of a clumsy military action carried out without considered thought and without laying the political ground-work from the beginning; it is also proof of a lack of suitable political consideration to the use of war tools. Is there not one man at the top in the cabinet who knew with what difficulties and against what sensitive background these bombs were obtained? Was there not one man who remembered the restrictions which accompanied the sale of this item?

The second error touches on the way the issue was dealt with after the reports were published in the U.S. media. The first reports came out more than 2 weeks ago and Israel kept silent. No reaction came from Jerusalem or from the Israeli Embassy in Washington. Not more than 2 or 3 days had passed before the issue had taken a place in all communications media, from coast to coast, and become an enormous bomb which exploded in Israel's face. Only someone who does not know the sensitivity of the Americans to this form of weapon could with such irresponsibility have ignored the issue.

The U.S. administration took advantage of the turbid wave of publicity, in the framework of its campaign for U.S. public opinion. Secretary of State Vance deliberately published an announcement he had sent on the issue to Senator [as published] O'Neill, one of the most senior members of the U.S. Senate. In the announcement Vance pointed an accusing finger at Israel and judged that Israel really used these bombs. Israel remained silent. Only at the beginning of this week did the IDF spokesman issue an announcement confirming that Israel made limited use of these bombs.

There is no doubt that the U.S. administration is now looking for ways to accost Israel, but the trouble is that the Israeli Cabinet is helping it in this campaign. The cluster bombs were only another link in the chain of errors and failures used by the administration against Israel. The remarks by the U.S. secretary of state and Secretary of Defense Harold Brown, who said on Sunday that this campaign will continue until the IDF troops leave Lebanon, are a public admission by people at the top of the rule of using the media to create public opinion hostile to Israel in the aim of imposing policy on it.

This campaign for public opinion that is being run by the administration in Washington is continuing ceaselessly. Only 3 weeks ago Jerusalem expected a breather. They said that the U.S. President was going to Brazil, then to Nigeria and that until he returned there would be a lull. In the meantime Israel opened a direct move toward Cairo and there were already those in Jerusalem who spoke of a drop in pressure. But nothing of the sort has happened. The propaganda war conducted by the U.S. administration to cut down public support for Israel is continuing without a break. The briefings behind the scenes on the part of the administration, particularly of editorial writers and influential columnists, are continuing without a break. The political statement made by Roy Atherton last week in Atlanta, where he again accused Israel of interpreting 242 incorrectly and determined that the settlements represent an obstacle to peace, gained broad publicity in the United States. All these and a long list of hostile critical articles, such as we have never known in the United States, are cutting down more and more on the sympathy which Israel had always had in U.S. public opinion.

It is true that the U.S. administration has tried to keep a "low profile" over the last 2 weeks but the activity behind the scenes continues. Against this background the reports of the cluster bombs fell on fertile ground and at once jumped to the headlines. When President Carter tries again soon to push Israel, he will be able to lean on public opinion which will be much less sympathetic toward Israel than it has ever been.

POST ON 'UNCOMFORTABLE STATE OF U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS'

TA140815Y Jerusalem POST in English 14 Apr 78 p 16 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] The world is by now accustomed to President Carter's penchant for semantic slips, especially on the Middle East. It would seem somewhat churlish to pick on the latest mishap in which the State Department spokesman felt constrained to rush in with a denial that the American President did not really mean it when he referred to Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Yet, the presidential slip, the denial and the embarrassment surrounding them provide a useful insight into the present uncomfortable state of U.S.-Israel relations. Mr Carter and his top foreign policy advisers have taken umbrage at Prime Minister Begin's reputed intransigence on the issue of the West Bank and Gaza territories. And there could be ground for arguing that, in his ideological attitude towards the territories, Mr Begin does not represent the broad Israeli consensus. However, Mr Carter and his administration seem to have left no stone unturned in driving the Israeli mainstream towards Mr Begin's corner.

For Israeli mainstream opinion has grown to distrust the intentions of the present American administration. The question of Jerusalem also articulates this distrust.

When Messrs Carter, Vance and Brzezinski speak of the need for Israeli territorial concessions on the West Bank, the mainstream Israeli asks himself at what point will American demands for Israeli concessions stop? Before or after the redivision of Jerusalem? Will they also include demands for the ceding of its strategic surrounding mountaintops to Arab artillery emplacements, or not?

It is no secret that the Brookings report, the reputed fountain of Mr Carter's Middle East policy, spoke of Jerusalem as the toughest problem of all in the search for a solution to the Arab-Israel dispute, but remained ominously silent on what America's position on Jerusalem should be.

Mr Carter's pronouncements, and the denials of his various spokesmen, have not served to allay fears in regard to American intentions on Jerusalem. They have instead served to thicken the fog on an issue around which all of Israel is united.

The U.S., like many other countries, originally withheld recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital because the UN partition decision in 1947 had slated Jerusalem to be an international city. The U.S., like many other countries, also withheld official recognition from the Jordanian annexation of the conquered West Bank. But there's the rub. The U.S. never went out of its way to make this lack of recognition of the Jordanian act tangible. It has persisted, however, in denying such recognition to Israeli Jerusalem.

Again, it is important to emphasize the facts of the situation. The withholding of recognition is not focused on the Israeli presence in all of Jerusalem; it perpetuates America's intransigence in refusing to recognize even former West Jerusalem as Israel's self-proclaimed capital.

The anomaly of this situation was highlighted brilliantly last November when even President as-Sadat of Egypt recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

One of the main impediments to the Egyptian-Israel peace process today is this growing Israeli distrust of America's intentions. There is a school of thought among American policymakers that this is of no account since Israel is so dependent on the U.S. The Arabs are the ones whose sensibilities must be constantly stroked.

This is patently false, and dangerously so. One of the conditions for resuming the peace process is restoration of Israeli trust in American intentions. An easy first step in such a direction for Mr Carter would be to put an end to the 30-year absurdity of America's non-recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

IDF TO EVACUATE MORE AREAS IN S. LEBANON 14 APR

TA140720Y Jerusalem POST in English 14 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[By Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] Israel this morning will evacuate another nine points in south Lebanon, pulling back from some 50 kms of territory taken in last month's incursion to oust Palestine Liberation Organization terrorists from the area.

The pullback--the second this week--will take place in the eastern central sector, from Arur al-Abwad near the Akiva bridge and down to the village of At-Tayyibah, including seven small villages.

The positions vacated will be handed over to troops of the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL), most probably members of the Nepalese battalion who are due to be deployed in south Lebanon today and tomorrow.

WALDHEIM'S IMPENDING VISIT CONSIDERED UNOFFICIAL

TA132039Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will not be among those who welcome Kurt Waldheim when his plane lands next Monday at Ben-Gurion Airport. Israel does not regard this visit as official, but rather--as circles in Jerusalem say--Waldheim is coming to survey the UN forces in southern Lebanon via Israel. In other words, the UN secretary general wishes to see with his own eyes how the Security Council resolution on the clearing of southern Lebanon of Israeli forces and the taking up of positions in the area by the UN force is actually being carried out.

There are circles who regard this visit favorably. It is a chance to explain to the UN secretary general in the field that Israel wants to pull back from southern Lebanon as quickly as possible, but that the speed of the withdrawal is contingent upon the speed of the UN forces' deployment. Israel will not leave a vacuum to be filled by the terrorists. If terrorists again take positions despite the UN presence it will legitimize Israel's reactions, if such should occur in the future.

Circles in Israel point to the return of the terrorists to Kawkaba. We would like to hope that in the future the UN forces will fulfill their duty. These circles say that a joint operation of the UN forces and the Lebanese Government, if it acts, will be able to give the residents of the Shi'ite villages backing not to cooperate with the terrorists.

The question to be asked is whether in the talks he will hold in Israel Waldheim would be convinced that the pace of the Israeli withdrawal is dependent first and foremost on the United Nations, and whether he will accept the Israeli opinion that a vacuum that will be created with the Israeli withdrawal will be a hole that will beckon the terrorists to come and fill.

'SIGNIFICANT' SOFTENING ON WEST BANK BEING CONSIDERED

TA140705Y Jerusalem POST in English 14 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[By David Landau]

[Excerpts] A significant softening in the formulation of Israel's West Bank policy--which could eventually mean a softening in the substance of the policy too--is being considered this weekend in top Jerusalem policy-making circles. The shift would comprise, in effect, the clear-cut adoption by the government of Foreign Minister Dayan's formulation regarding the applicability of Resolution 242 to the West Bank.

Dayan has asserted for some time that the resolution does apply to the West Bank, and that while Israel is proposing its self-rule scheme as one way of applying the resolution's "withdrawal of forces" provision, it would be prepared to consider alternative proposals involving territorial withdrawal if the Arab side puts them forward.

This formula has never been espoused by Premier Begin--apparently since it holds out the possibility, albeit hypothetical, of a territorial compromise on the West Bank.

If Begin and the government were now to adopt the Dayan formula there is reason to believe that the U.S. would see the shift as "a step well ahead in the right direction," and would on that basis be prepared to renew its mediation efforts between Cairo and Jerusalem.

The suggestion for softening the Israeli stand on the West Bank is being canvassed as one immediate measure to stem the slippage in Israel's public support in the U.S. and elsewhere in the West. [paragraph continues]

Israel has suffered heavily in this respect in its confrontation with Washington over the applicability of 242 "to all fronts" since its position is widely attacked as intransigent.

But plainly adoption of the foreign minister's formula would have significance far beyond the hasbara (information) plane. It could open the way for a compromise with Egypt over the "declaration of principles," in which Cairo is demanding a commitment from Jerusalem to eventual withdrawal from the West Bank as well as from the other territories. (American and some Israeli sources believe that Cairo would not insist, in the "declaration of principles," on commitment specifying total withdrawal. But all sources familiar with the negotiations say that Egypt is adamant about a commitment to withdrawal that would clearly apply to all fronts.)

Premier Begin is due to discuss the issue with the foreign minister and with other top policy-makers over the weekend.

PFLP-GC 'THREATENS SHOW TRIAL' FOR CAPTURED IDF SOLDIER

TA132024Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Apr 78 TA

[Text] The terrorists are threatening to put the Israeli soldier that they captured in southern Lebanon last week on a show trial before a court specially designated by them. This report was made today at a press conference held by (Abu Firas), one of the leaders of Ahmad Jibril's terrorist organization, known as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

The reporters saw a short film in which the Israeli soldier was shown, with his right arm in a cast, being interrogated by his captors. The soldier was identified only as Avraham, and it was reported that he is 34 years old, the father of three and of North African origin. Bank and legal documents found on him were also shown. The terrorists refused to allow the foreign correspondents to meet the Israeli, claiming that doctors had ordered him to have complete rest. They did not allow the correspondents to hear his voice, except for a few seconds during the showing of the film.

(Abu Firas) claimed that Avraham, a member of the Engineering Corps, did not lose his way--as was reported in Israel--but was a member of a patrol. He explained that the soldier will be charged with having fought against Lebanon and the Palestinians and with having taken part in the 6-day war and the Yom Kippur war. He will also be charged for having come to settle in Palestine. The terrorist officer said that international observers may be invited for the trial which may start next week. Today (Abu Firas) claimed that Avraham has already signed a petition against Israel and condemned its leaders for having sent him to fight.

As for the bodies of the four other Israeli soldiers the terrorists reported that they are being kept in Beirut under PLO supervision.

YADIN SAYS DEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL TOO SLOW

TA131907Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Yig'el Yadin said that the speed of the UN forces' deployment in southern Lebanon does not satisfy the government. He stated that Israel's problem in that area is how to prevent any kind of passage of terrorists after the IDF withdrawal. The government did all it could to cooperate with the UN forces. Professor Yadin spoke with reporters in Haifa during the dedication of a street named after the late Mosh Sne in the Denya neighborhood on Mt Carmel.

CHRISTIAN FORCES' SPOKESMAN ASKS IDF TO REMAIN

TA131903Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Apr 78 TA

[Text] The spokesman of the Christians in southern Lebanon, Francis Rizq, says that the number of terrorists is greater than it was on the eve of the IDF operation because they have received reinforcements from Iraq and because the Syrian border is open to them. Rizq repeated his request that the IDF not withdraw from southern Lebabon. He said that the UN soldiers are incapable of defending themselves and they cannot therefore be expected to defend others.

TERRORISTS RESUME SHELLING OF GALILEE

TA140800Y Jerusalem POST in English 14 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[Excerpt] Metulla--A number of Katyusha shells were fired early yesterday morning into the Galilee panhandle, causing no casualties or damage apart from an interruption to the electricity power in one place for a few hours. The blasts shattered the relative quiet of the past fortnight in the region.

A Lebanese spokesman commented that despite the quiet all along the northern border, terrorists incidents had been on the increase in south Lebanon in recent days. On Tuesday night and early yesterday morning the terrorists fired scores of shells at Marj 'Uyun and Al-Qulay'ah. Lebanese forces returned the fire.

Yesterday afternoon the terrorists turned their attention on the At-Tayyibah area, north of Misgav 'Am, but their shelling caused neither injury nor damage.

BURG: NO ARAB TROOPS WILL BE PERMITTED IN WEST BANK

TA140638Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Police and Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg has said Israel is ready to pay a price for peace but is not willing to itself be the price. The minister was speaking at a youth pageant held last night in Petah Tiqwa, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the town. The minister added that no Arab soldier would be deployed west of the Jordan River. No PLO state would be established between the Jordan River and the sea, the interior minister said.

GUR TO GIVE UP COMMAND TO EYTAN 16 APRIL

TA140810Y Jerusalem POST in English 14 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Chief of Staff Rav-Aluf Mordekhay Gur will hand over command of the Israel Defence Forces to Aluf Raphael Eytan on Sunday morning.

At a short ceremony at the prime minister's office, Eytan--or Raful as he is known--will be promoted to the rank of rav-aluf, and Gur will take leave of the government. A short while later, at general staff headquarters in Tel Aviv, Gur will formally hand over the command to Eytan.

Gur will leave early in May for a three-month lecture tour abroad. His future plans after that are not clear.

For the past week Gur has been making the rounds in the army, bidding farewell to the men and women who served under him. The farewells were modest, with Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman attending several of them.

REPORT ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN SETTLEMENTS

TA132120Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Apr 78 TA

[Excerpts] Dozens of prefabs have lately been constructed in the settlements in Judaea and Samaria. In fact, construction work is being carried out in all the settlements, except An-Nabi Salih and Bet Al. In Haris, where an urban settlement is planned, large-scale groundwork is underway. Our settlement correspondent, Yig'al Goren, toured Judaea and Samaria today, and he reports: [begin videotape]

In the heart of Samaria, about 20 km east of Petah Tiqva, explosions have lately been taking place. Their purpose is to clear the ground for the city of Haris, the first Jewish city in Samaria. Huge JNF bulldozers are preparing the rocky ground for the building of the initial 120 residential units. A large nucleus of settlers, comprising members of military industries workers from central Israel is waiting for the construction of the first buildings. According to plans, a large industrial center will be established near Haris. For the moment, ground preparation work is being carried out in the area. According to those who are preparing the ground, this work is very complex and intricate, and will take many more months.

In Elon More, Gush Emunim's first settlement site, 60 new prefabs are being set up. In another 2 months the settlers will move from the trailers, where they have been living for over 2 years, into the new houses. Some of Elon More's settlers are still hoping to live in the Nabulus vicintiy, but it seems that the chances of realizing this hope are very slight. Until the problem of the land is settled, the preparation of a master plan for permanent building in the area will also be postponed. For the time being there is a plan to add another 40 prefabs, in order to turn the settlement [hitnahalut] into a settlement [yishuv] of 100 families.

Qarne Shomron, one of the settlements which started out in a military camp, has in the past few weeks been turned into a settlement in every sense of the word. More than 30 families are already residing in the prefabs that have recently been set up between Nabulus and Qalqilyah. The first stage of the construction has ended recently, and there are thoughts about an immediate addition of buildings to absorb more families. Lately contacts have been made with industrialists and investors for establishing a new industrial region in the area. According to the existing plan in the Construction Ministry, Qarne Shomron will be an urban center with hundreds of families. The present picture is that the first stage of the temporary construction is reaching its end in most of Judaea and Samaria settlements. With the start of the work in An-Nabi Salih and Bet El in the next period, the work will encompass all 13 settlements in Judaea and Samaria. [end videotape]

Gush Emunim plans to settle a nucleus of settlers in Tapu-ah, south of Nabulus. Now a unit of Nahal [Fighting Pioneer Youth] soldiers is located there.

GDR MINISTER APOLOGIZES TO SHAH FOR BERLIN INCIDENTS

LD131614Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 13 Apr 78 LD

[Text] GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer ended his 24-hour visit to Teheran this afternoon after having been assured that Iran has accepted the Berlin government's apologies and that the Iranian ambassador to the GDR will soon leave for his post to that country. The Iranian ambassador to the GDR was recalled to Iran about 2 months ago, following an attack on the Iranian Embassy in Berlin which led to the suspension of economic relations between the two countries.

Oskar Fischer, who arrived in Teheran on Wednesday afternoon, was received by the shah during his stay and delivered a message to him from Erich Honecker, GDR Communist Party general secretary and State Council chairman. Before leaving Teheran, Oskar Fischer stated in a press statement:

I had the honor of being received by his imperial majesty the shahanshah aryamehr and delivering to him a message from GDR Communist Party general secretary and State Council chairman. My visit to Iran and the message are related to the provocations and regretful incidents which took place on 27 February of this year against the imperial embassy. The incidents originated in West Berlin. Once again, I express the GDR's regrets over these incidents. I also informed his imperial majesty the shahanshah aryamehr that the GDR, which pursues the principle of peaceful coexistence between countries with different social systems, is interested in further developing its constructive relations with Iran, which will serve the mutual interests of both countries.

Having said that, we bear in mind the criteria recognized by the international community concerning diplomatic relations, including guaranteeing the security of embassies in the GDR. We do not conceal that the provocations against your country in Berlin were aimed against the positive relations between Iran and the GDR. Please permit me, as a result of statements made by the shahanshah aryamehr, to state with satisfaction that the Imperial Iranian Government is also interested in expanding constructive relations with the GDR in mutual interests.

Later, Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer took part in a radio-television and press conference. In answer to a question by Fereydun Pezeshkan, our diplomatic correspondent, as to what sort of guarantee had been given to the Iranian Government to avert similar incidents in the future, Fischer said: The GDR has assured Iran that its embassy in Berlin will be able to carry out its normal functions and that any incident similar to that which took place on 27 February and resulted in closing the embassy will not be repeated.

In answer to another question the GDR foreign minister said that relations between Iran and the GDR will be further strengthened in the future and the activities suspended on 27 February will be resumed. Oskar Fischer alluded to the closure of the Iranian Embassy in Berlin and said that, following the apologies extended by Berlin to Teheran, the matter should be considered closed.

In answer to another question regarding the date of departure of the Iranian ambassador to Berlin, the GDR foreign minister said that this is a matter for Iran. However, he added that it will not be long before he returns to his post. He stressed that relations between the two countries have been normalized once again.

Following the press conference, Foreign Minister Abbas Ali Khalatbari had a private interview at the airport with Fereydun Pezeshkan, during which he said that Amir Farzanegan, the shahanshah's ambassador to the GDR, will be instructed to return to his post next week. He then said that the private sector and the Chamber of Commerce will also be notified of the normalization of relations between the two countries and that there is no impediment against expanding trade between them.

Foreign Minister Khalatbari told our correspondent that the GDR Government is a serious-minded government and that it has assured us that our officials will be able to carry out their duties in a secure atmosphere.

IRAN, USSR SIGN AGREEMENT ON PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION

LD131420Y Teheran PARS in English 1016 GMT 13 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY) 12 April--An agreement for the construction of the fourth phase of the second Iranian gas trunkline was signed between Iran and the Soviet Union this afternoon. The agreement was signed by the chairman of the State Committee for External Economic Affairs, Semen Skachkov, on behalf of the Soviet Union, and by the Iranian minister of economic and financial affairs, Muhammad Yeganeh.

In January 1966 an agreement was signed between Iran and the USSR for the export of 10 billion cubic metres of Iranian natural gas [words indistinct] the Soviet Union in return for Soviet machinery and goods. To implement this project, the National Iranian Gas Company was established and the agreement was implemented in 1970. The first 1,000 of the trunkline, [words indistinct] was completed in 1975 and runs from the southern oilfields to the city of Astara on the Irano-USSR border. The (?capacity) of this trunkline is 16.5 billion cubic metres a year and it supplies, in addition to export, a number of major cities and industrial centres located along the route of the pipeline. These include Shiraz, Isfahan, Kashan, Qom, Teheran and the industrial city of Alborz near Qazvin. Gas is also supplied to villages located near the trunkline.

In addition to [words indistinct] will also transit another 10 billion cubic metres a year earmarked for internal consumption, thus bringing the capacity of the system to [words indistinct] a year. In order to transfer gas from Kangan to Astara, a 1,450-kilometer trunkline will be constructed. The project will be implemented [meaning "ready for use"] from the beginning of 1980.

Skachkov, who arrived in Teheran today, held talks with Yeganeh and with the Prime Minister, Jamshid Amuzegar, this morning.

MAYOR OF ABU DHABI PAYS VISIT TO TEHERAN

LD121522Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0300 GMT 12 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpt] A delegation of Abu Dhabi officials led by His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad ibn Ghafur al-Hamid, governor of the western region and mayor of Abu Dhabi, arrived by air in Teheran last night for a visit to our country and was accorded a welcome. The governor of the western region and mayor of Abu Dhabi, in his remarks at Mehrabad Airport, referred to Iran as the second country of the people of Abu Dhabi and expressed satisfaction over the daily expansion of the existing fraternal relations between Iran and Abu Dhabi,

INDIA

VAJPAYEE COMMENTS ON REPORT ON CIA NUCLEAR DEVICE

BK140923Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, assured an agitated Lok Sabha today that the government has taken a very serious view of the reported planting of a nuclear device by the U.S. Central Intelligency Agency in the Himalayas in 1965. The U.S. ambassador in New Delhi has been summoned by the External Affairs Ministry and was told of India's great concern over the matter. The ambassador promised to contact Washington and give us full information. We are also trying to collect information from our sources, Mr Vajpayee added.

The external affairs minister said he will make a statement on the subject on Monday. He is prepared to make a statement today itself but it will be better if the house can wait till Monday. Mr Vajpayee's assurance came after members from all sides sought to raise the subject. Excitement ran high in the house, and very little could be heard of what members were trying to say.

POLICE FIRE ON DEMONSTRATORS IN PANTNAGAR

BK141012Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Apr 78 BK

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, several persons were killed and a number of others injured when police opened fire on a 2,000-strong unruly mob of demonstrators yesterday in Pantnagar in Nainital district.

According to an official spokesman, farm laborers of the Pantnagar Agricultural University took out a procession in defiance of the prohibitary orders and pelted stones at the police party. The police first fired a teargas shell to disperse the unruly demonstrators. The exact number of persons killed in the police firing is not yet available as further details are awaited.

INDIA, PAKISTAN SIGN ACCORD ON SALAL DAM PROJECT

BK140915Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Apr 78 BK

[Text] India and Pakistan today signed an agreement on the design and construction of the Salal Hydroelectric Project on the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir. This brings to an end 8 years of negotiations on the project between the two countries.

The agreement was signed by the external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, and the adviser on foreign affairs of the Pakistan Government, Mr Agha Shahi. The agreement came after 4 days of high-level discussions between India and Pakistan in New Delhi. The Pakistani delegation extended its stay for the signing ceremony today. After the signing ceremony both the leaders expressed the confidence that this major accord is another step forward on the path of friendship and understanding between the two neighbors.

An important feature of the agreement is that the proposed dam on the Chenab will be of such a height that it does not prevent free flow of water to Pakistan. Instead of the earlier proposal of about 12 meters, the height of the dam will now be a little less than 10 meters. Under the agreement India is to use the electricity generated at the project. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Vajpayee said the agreement is a proof of the openhearted discussions between the two countries. He said India wants a strong and stable Pakistan and has refrained from interfering in the internal affairs of that country. After the Janata government took over, successful efforts have been made toward improving the friendly relations with all neighboring countries.

Mr Agha Shahi said the agreement reflects the determination of the two countries to find peaceful adjustment. He said General Ziaul Haq and Mr Morarji Desai have made indispensable contributions toward the conclusion of the Salal agreement. Their statesmanship to bring permanent peace between the two countries has influenced the course of the negotiations. The Pakistani delegation left for home today. They were seen off at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, and the minister of state, Mr Somarendra Kundu. The Pakistani delegation has since arrived in Islamabad.

CPI, CPI-M REPRESENTATIVES HOLD TALKS ON JOINT ACTION

BK131355Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Representatives of the CPI [Communist Party of India] and CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] met in New Delhi today and exchanged views on the position of each party on the political situation. The two sides felt that in spite of differences on several issues, there is a large area of agreement. In a statement the Central Committee of the CPI-M has said that the two parties can take up common issues in cooperation with other left and democratic parties. They will explore the possibilities of such joint action without abandoning their political positions.

NEPAL

PRIME MINISTER BISTA PRAISES RELATIONS WITH INDIA

BK131647Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 13 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Prime Minister Mr Kirti Nidhi Bista has said that Nepal-India relations were at their best and in fact they have never been so good.

Speaking at a press conference in his office today, Prime Minister Mr Bista described his 10-day visit to India beginning April 15 as essentially a good-will visit, adding, however, that it will serve a useful purpose of further strengthening traditional ties and promote a still better understanding between the two countries.

His majesty the king's visit to India last year had laid a firm foundation to such an [words indistinct] he said, while pointing out that Indian Prime Minister Mr Morarji Desai's visit to this country had provided a fillip to bilateral cooperation. Better economic (?direction) should be given to the present day excellent political relations, Mr Bista added.

Pointing out that agreements have been reached between the two countries on mutually beneficial projects such as [words indistinct], the Prime Minister said that his talks with the Indian leaders will also cover the agricultural sector. Prime Minister Mr Bista said progress has been recorded in negotiations regarding the Devighat Project and added that agreement on the project will be signed very soon. Stating that though Nepal accepted assistance from India as well as other friendly countries besides international institutions such as the World Bank for the Karnali Project, he said that the project [words indistinct] will be paid back in favorable terms. At the press conference Prime Minister Mr Bista disclosed that he will visit China (?within this year).

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